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Blair condemns 'Tory lobby fodder' Notice to quit for hereditary peers in Lords

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR placed Britain's hereditary peers on notice to quit yesterday with his strongest pledge yet that a Labour government would swiftly end a system under which people wielded power by right of birth, not of merit or election.

He put forward a two-stage plan for Lords reform under which the right of about 750 hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Upper House would be scrapped in an early piece of constitutional legislation. Most of them were "just Tory voting fodder", he said in one of the fiercest attacks by a Labour leader on the hereditary principle. Some peers were in the Lords merely because their ancestor was the mistress of a monarch, he said.

The aim would be first to turn the Lords into a genuine "body of the distinguished and meritorious" before moving to the second stage: an elected second chamber which would retain some peers chosen either for their expertise "in different fields or because they would just all wish to stand under party labels."

All the signs last night were that the second stage of the reform will not be a priority for a first Labour term.

Mr Blair's onslaught on "the oddest and least defensible part of the constitution" threw Lords reform into the centre of the political arena. Earlier in the day, Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, defended the Lords as a place that worked, a hardworking and serious reforming chamber that provided a vital check on the executive.

Mr Blair's vision of a new look second chamber came in the course of a wide-ranging speech on the constitution, setting out Labour's plans for Scottish and Welsh devolution, declaring his own support for elected mayors for London and other big cities, and confirming his intention to bring in an elected authority for London and a freedom of information Act. He said, however, that Labour would not try to do it all at once in one great reform Bill. "The measures could be achieved only over a period of time."

Delivering the John Smith memorial lecture in London, Mr Blair said it was wrong and absurd that people should wield power by right of birth. "What is more, there are over 300 official 'Tory hereditary peers', 12 Labour and 24 Liberal Democrat. Hundreds more rarely appear, but if they did, we can be sure very few would side with Labour or the Liberal Democrats. This is plain, first, because they are party labels."

"Tory peers did not just use the Lords as a drinking and dining club; they voted and the poll tax, 'the most expensive fiasco in fiscal history', would never have become law without the hereditary peers. There are no conceivable grounds for maintaining this system," he said.

Mr Blair confirmed that Labour was prepared to allow some of those hereditary peers who made regular contributions in the Lords to become

life peers. The law lords would also remain.

In remarks confirming that Labour's plans for the second elected chamber are far from complete, Mr Blair said that whatever the final balance between election and merit in that chamber, it was impossible to justify doing nothing about a manifest constitutional unfairness, namely membership of the legislature on the basis of birth. He asked: "Are we going to continue alone of all the democracies to have laws passed by an upper chamber, a majority of whose members are there by birth not merit, perhaps because 300 years ago their ancestor was the mistress of a monarch?"

Dr Mawhinney said that removing hereditary peers would deprive Parliament of a range of experience that had brought to debates wisdom and knowledge that otherwise would be missing. He said that Labour's dislike for the hereditary principle was reflected in the attitude that many socialists had towards the Royal Family. "The threat to the Lords could conceivably pose a threat to our entire constitutional settlement."

Elsewhere in his speech, Mr Blair repeated his pledge to hold a referendum on proportional representation. While making plain that he had yet to be persuaded of the case for change, he pleased some Liberal Democrats by his readiness to be convinced.

Teatime talk, page 2
 Peter Riddell, page 11
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Brigadier Parker Bowles and Rosemary Pitman after their wedding in Chelsea

Parker Bowles remarries

By Emma Wilkins

BRIGADIER Andrew Parker Bowles married Rosemary Pitman, a divorced mother of three grown-up sons, in a ten-minute ceremony at Chelsea Register Office in London yesterday.

Brigadier Parker Bowles, 56, whose ex-wife Camilla is a close friend of the Prince of Wales, declined to kiss his new

wife, saying the couple were too old for that sort of thing in public. "She is marvellous. What else can I say?" he said, while the new Mrs Parker Bowles said that the ceremony had been very nice.

Unlike his first wedding in 1973, which was attended by 900 people including Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and Princess Anne, there were just five

guests at yesterday's ceremony — his children Laura, 18, and Tom, 21, and Mrs Pitman's sons Henry, 33, William, 26 and Tom, 30. They all signed the marriage certificate.

Mrs Pitman's first husband, Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Pitman, is a former cavalry officer from the same regiment as Brigadier Parker Bowles. He is remarried.

Lockerbie opens its homes to victims of the snow

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE people of Lockerbie, whose community was devastated seven years ago by Britain's worst air disaster, won praise yesterday for opening their homes to hundreds of motorists stranded by blizzards over the past three days.

About 150 motorists were offered beds in homes and stranded travellers were ferried in four-wheel vehicles to emergency accommodation. Local people were digging cars out of the snow throughout the night.

Police in Dumfries and Galloway, the worst hit area in southern Scotland, worked all yesterday to clear the roads of almost 1,000 vehicles stranded on the A74 near the town.

Sergeant David Irving, of Lockerbie police, who co-ordinated an emergency centre in the town, said: "The people in and around Lockerbie have been incredible. Their generosity is beyond belief."

Around 50 locals volunteered to run the centre — they supplied hot meals and drinks and handed out sleeping bags supplied by the Army.

Forecasters believe the worst of the snow has passed, but predict further light falls by the weekend coupled with high winds. Freezing fog is expected to make driving conditions hazardous for early morning commuters as far south as London today. A spokesman for the London Weather Centre said of the gales forecast: "The weekend looks a bit wild."

While most of Scotland, Wales, and western England continued to clear up yesterday after some of the heaviest snowfalls in 50 years, the far South West was in turn hit by blizzards.



Dame Pauline rejects post as No 10 aide

FO's top woman quits to join bank

By Michael Binyon and Patricia Tehan

DAME Pauline Neville-Jones, 56, the most senior woman in the Foreign Office, is to join the National Westminster Bank after rejecting two senior posts — as ambassador to Bonn, and special adviser to the Prime Minister.

Her abrupt departure is a blow to the Foreign Office, which had hoped that her promotion would have underpinned criticism that it does not offer proper opportunities to women.

Dame Pauline will take up her new full-time job as a managing director in charge of developing NatWest Market's international strategy in June. She will follow her former chief, Douglas Hurd, who joined the bank as deputy chairman on an annual salary of £250,000 after resigning as Foreign Secretary last summer. Her basic salary is likely to be just under £200,000. Her performance-related work on privatisation issues could double that.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday praised the key role she played as political director in the Bosnia negotiations and the Dayton peace accord. His words barely conceal the intense irritation in the Foreign Office at suggestions that she has been shabbily treated or

Three die, page 5
 Forecast, page 22
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Rapist given five life sentences

A rapist who attacked a young woman days after he was discharged from a psychiatric unit was given five life sentences yesterday.

The trial judge criticised a hospital management's decision not to renew a detention order on Glenn Grant against the advice of his consultants, social workers and nursing staff.

Tunnel rail link finance inquiry

Financial irregularities at Union Railways, the company that designed the £3 billion Channel Tunnel rail link, are to be the subject of an investigation into rail privatisation. The contract to build the high-speed link is due to be awarded by the Government within days.

Speaker joins Scott row

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

BETTY BOOTHROYD, the Speaker of the Commons, stepped into the growing row over the Scott report yesterday by supporting Labour demands for an early sight of the 1,800-page document.

The Speaker's intervention came only hours before Sir Richard Scott said that he had been put under pressure by the Government into giving ministers the report on the arms-to-Iraq affair seven days before it will be available to the Opposition and the media.

To the Government's obvious embarrassment, Miss Boothroyd said it would be "much better" if MPs were given advance copies of the report.

MPs and journalists have been told that only a handful of ministers and senior officials will see the five-volume

report before next Thursday afternoon when it will be presented to the Commons by Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

Sir Richard said on BBC2's *Newsnight* last night that he thought his report should have been released to Government, Opposition and the media simultaneously. "But it was represented to me very strongly by the Government that that was impracticable," he said.

And tight security the first copies of the report were delivered to the Cabinet Office yesterday afternoon. The Government is believed to have asked for 20 copies while Sir Richard originally offered six. The number delivered yesterday was said to be "somewhere in the middle."

The Government is using

the next week to "co-ordinate" its response.

Miss Boothroyd said that she had no power to intervene but she supported Labour demands for the report to be disclosed early. She said: "In my experience the questioning on any statement is much better focused when some steps have been taken to enable Opposition spokesmen and minority party spokesmen to have access some time in advance to the text of complicated reports."

Downing Street said that it would consider the Speaker's view.

Sir Richard said that no one, including ministers, should have been given prior access to his findings.

Ministers accused, page 11
 Television review, page 43

'Cut-price' jets fear as 189 die in crash

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A BOEING 737 jet which crashed off the coast of the Dominican Republic killing all 189 people on board had not had a formal go-ahead to make the fatal flight to Germany.

Most of the 176 tourists to die were German and early, unfounded, fears that the aircraft had not been insured led the country's transport ministry to consider legal action against the Turkish-owned airline and the tour operator. Last night about 50 bodies had been recovered.

The crash renewed fears over the growing use of cut-price aircraft leased from third countries by hard-pressed holiday companies. Britain's charter airline industry has

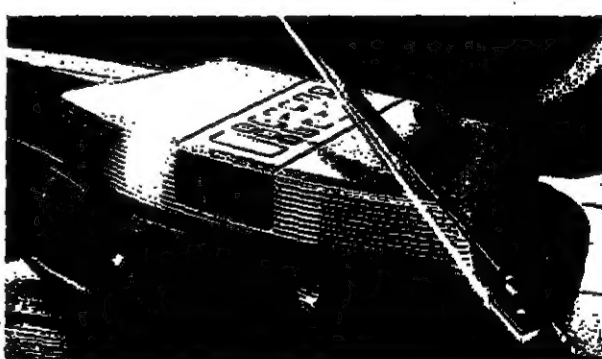
lobbied hard for tighter controls over "flag of convenience" jets.

After an Algerian-registered Boeing 737 crashed at Coventry airport, the Department of Transport announced last month that it was tightening regulations on the use of foreign aircraft and crew.

Yesterday's crash is certain to bring new demands for even stricter controls to be imposed throughout Europe.

The Boeing 737, considered one of the safest and most reliable aircraft to be built, took off normally. After four minutes, it appeared to turn back towards the airport before diving into the sea.

German mourning, page 14



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Thousands freeze to view Cézanne

By Dalia Alberge, Arts Correspondent

CEZANNE fever hit London yesterday as thousands of people descended on the Tate Gallery. A queue stretched the length of the main hall, through the main entrance and down the steps, before making its way round the block towards the underground station. It was at least a quarter of a mile long.

By the end of the day, which included an evening viewing, an estimated 8,000 people had seen the new exhibition. However long the wait, they came away thinking it was worth it.

To get in, though, people suffered: they

stood for up to 90 minutes, in freezing conditions, cursing the gallery for not allowing them to wait inside.

These were "friends of the gallery who, for an annual £35 subscription, see exhibitions first on a 'friends' day" and have unlimited access to the shows. Several said that they did not expect to have to queue on "their day". But then the Tate has 15,500 friends, each of whom can bring a guest.

Three retired women, who had come up from Cornwall, were particularly distraught at the sight of the queue. It had not been their day; having set out at 4am, to struggle through the snow to the station, their train broke down three

times and they were delayed by two hours. By the time they were likely to see the first exhibit, it would be time to catch the train home again, said Angela Cargrave. "It's heart-breaking."

Once inside, people found something else to complain about: the heat. "It's like a sauna," said a guest.

But whatever the frustrations, Cézanne soothed tempers. Colin Mackay, a gardener, said he would have waited for many more hours, "days even. It's fabulous". Dana Tatum had come from Gloucestershire: "It was worth it."

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"We don't want to see your leader. Take us to the Tate"

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Sir Robin's master strokes leave backbenchers in deep end

SENDING in the Head of the Home Civil Service to be interrogated by a committee of backbench MPs is rather like inviting an SAS captain to face assault from a team of morris dancers. Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary, was yesterday questioned by the Commons Select Committee on the Civil Service. They might better have spent the day knitting.

This was the first time I had seen the tall and athletic Sir Robin with his clothes on. Along with most of Britain, your sketchwriter first en-

countered him some weeks ago, appearing in a Channel 4 documentary about a lido in Brixton. Its regular habitués were interviewed, including two lesbian ladies and the Head of the Home Civil Service. He was seen executing a graceful breast-stroke. He was also filmed clad in a pink towel, which at one point seemed close to slipping.

Yesterday at Westminster, Sir Robin's breast-stroke was effortless. Far from making a splash he hardly ruffled the water. Towel never slipped. The MPs, chaired by Giles

Radice (Lab, Durham N), had hoped to probe a little beneath the surface of change in the Civil Service. Butler was not playing their game. But with such skill was he not playing that we were not even conscious of the refusal. Afterwards, one could not remember a word he had said.

MPs took turns at trying to pin him down. I studied each reply, seeking a pattern we might commend to any ambitious young civil servant. In fact, Sir Robin's approach is almost formulaic.

Here are the elements of



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

what I call A Talent to Diffuse:
□ Be relentlessly pleasant.
□ Sound bluff. "Grapple" with the question. Avoid the weaselly Yes, Minister style.
□ Use self-deprecation.
□ Don't deny: play down.
□ Never admit an "either/or" situation.
□ Insist that whatever has been cited is not new, and has been around since Adam.

□ Never contradict ministers. Explain what they really meant to say.
□ Describe the unworkable as "an aim".
□ When asked for a solution, repeat the problem.
□ If pushed, cite a need for security in public buildings.
Was privatisation "political or managerial"? David Hanson (Lab, Delyn) asked. "I

hope the two are the same," Sir Robin said, earnestly. Had Mr Heseltine made a difference, asked Tony Wright (Lab, Carmock and Burntwood). "His activities impinge on me," Sir Robin said. What about Heseltine's idea to recruit from the professions? "I do agree with the aim," Giles Radice then suggested that Heseltine had trouble reading. Sir Robin was afflicted by a sudden deafness.

Was it advisable to combine his jobs as Cabinet Secretary and Civil Service head? "Yes, in the absence of a better solution." Problems were not problems, but seen by some as problems.
Performance-related pay? We've had it for years, Butler said. A huge cut in Civil Service costs? "A great challenge." Did it cause tension? "There is always tension." Were civil servants policy-makers or (as Stephen Dorrell had claimed) purchasers? "Both."

Ambassadors on boards? "We've done it for 20 years." Why couldn't the Civil Service Handbook be placed in the Commons library? Ah, "nothing sinister," secrecy was needed "for the security of public buildings".
Only once did the towel seem close to slipping. Asked about a scheme to let private-sector workers try their hand at Whitehall, Sir Robin assured MPs they would be placed "where they can't do much damage: drafting answers to MPs' letters, and Parliamentary Questions". The committee bridled. "Their drafts have to be checked," Sir Robin added, securing the towel. But the frisson was intended.

'People will worry that if Blair goes for us, it will be the Queen next'

Peers defend right to play their part in ruling country

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THEIR Lordships were eating crumpets in the wood-paneled parlours at the Palace of Westminster when news came through that most of them might soon be banished.

Although the hereditary peers — more than 750 of them are entitled to share the gentleman's club on the banks of the Thames with 300 working colleagues — knew that the Labour Party was "convinced" to scrap them and introduce some sort of elected chamber, they had not realised how strongly Tony Blair felt about the issue and how quickly the change might come.

Their ancestors had won their titles, often centuries before, through gallant deeds, sycophancy, refurbishing the country's coffers or being born on the wrong side of the royal sheets. Now they might have to abandon their palace before the end of the century.

Yesterday they admitted they would be an anomaly in Mr Blair's "classless Britain". They said they were undemocratic, indefensible and male dominated, but they strongly defended their right to continue playing a part in the running of the country.

Most thought Mr Blair's reference to them all being ancestors of mistresses to kings was "a hoot". But they were horrified by the Labour leader's claim that the hereditary Lords used the Palace of Westminster like a club. They pointed out that they could quite happily use White's or Pratt's across the park in Piccadilly if all they wanted was some convivial banter and a place to smoke cigars, drink whisky and play bridge.

They denied that they were there just to pick up their

attendance allowance and maybe take a bath before their dinner parties, although one peer privately admitted: "A few people here really abuse the place, but they are frowned upon."

Most said the reason they went to the Lords was for the "stimulating debates" and in order to act as a balance "to the rowdier end of the Palace". The 4th Marquess of Reading said: "When I first joined I



Charles II: 15 children by a variety of women

was worried by the lack of democracy, but I now see the wisdom of the Upper House. We are a wonderful, eclectic mix who can talk on the most extraordinary range of subjects. We have also been brought up with a sense of responsibility to govern. You don't have to teach a hereditary peer the ropes, he was born with an understanding of his duties."

He added: "We do a good job of clipping the wings of the extreme Right and Left and

speaking up for common sense. Winning the vote this week on keeping sport on terrestrial TV was an obvious example."

Lord Reading's great-grandfather was a hard-working Jewish lawyer who won his title through merit. "He certainly never flirted with royalty," he said.

The 3rd Earl Kitchener of Khartoum and of Broomie said: "It may be anachronistic and illogical that I have a say in running the country, but I take this job very seriously. I would be loath to see us disappear and I am not sure the country would like it either. I have never met anyone who has attacked me over the Lords but then maybe I wouldn't meet people like that, would I?"

Another hereditary Tory peer said: "Tony Blair is a decent enough chap but I think he will come unstuck on this one. A great many people have tried to reform us, but it's harder than you think. We are like limps and we have a great deal of history on our side. People will worry that if he goes for us, it will be the Queen next."

None of the 12 Labour hereditary peers would comment, but the working peer Lord Weatherill, former Speaker of the House and now convenor of the mostly hereditary cross-benchers, said: "The hereditary cross-benchers are often extremely hard-working here. They spend hours trying to unravel messy Bills from the Commons and often stay extremely late to vote. They are badly paid but they do it because they feel they owe it to their country."

The 7th Earl of Onslow,



Mistresses of the King and mothers of the aristocracy: Nell Gwyn, Duchess of Cleveland and Lucy Walters



Privileged descendants: the Dukes of St Albans, Grafton, Richmond, and Buccleuch and Queensberry

How philandering monarch left his mark

TONY BLAIR'S suggestion that Britain's most illustrious noblemen owe their status to sexual favours of past monarchs can be traced back to the philanderings of Charles II. The King sired 15 children by a variety of women, some of whom were distinctly low born, and often gave out titles to their offspring in return for keeping their counsel.

Apart from the Royal Family the number of dukes — the highest rank of

British peerage — has fallen to 24. There are four semi-royal dukes who inherited their titles through the bastard sons of Charles II, who was responsible for the biggest growth in dukedoms.

The sons of Barbara Villiers, who became Duchess of Cleveland, Nell Gwyn, Louise de Keroualle and Lucy Walters became respectively the Dukes of Grafton, St Albans, Richmond and Gordon, and Buccleuch and Queens-

berry. The title of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry dates back to 1633. He has been paralysed since a hunting accident 25 years ago.

The first Duke of Richmond, established in 1675, was one of the King's sons. The family seat is Goodwood House, Sussex. The 14th Duke of St Albans owes his title, dating from 1694, to the King's affair with Britain's best known orange seller, Nell Gwyn.

however, is one who is willing to become extinct. "I find it extremely difficult to justify the fact that, because one of my ancestors got pissed with George IV, I can boss you all about. I would be totally in favour of deeply thought out, root and branch reform of the second chamber. I have no

objection to that at all and if that means the hereditary peerage is not allowed any say, so be it."

Many of the working peers will stand up for their hereditary colleagues. Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare said: "Some hereditary peers never attend but many are extremely

distinguished and would be a great loss."

Lord Winston, who is professor of fertility studies at London University, was recently appointed a working Labour peer. He said: "I am much more impressed than I expected to be by the contribution that some of the hereditary

peers make. The advantage the Lords have is that there is a huge care about the place from all peers. There is a concern to find out the truth about something. There is a feeling of co-operation." He added: "I don't believe you could get that in an elected chamber."

High-flyer quits

Continued from page 1

that her failure to win the job of ambassador to Paris was the evidence of discrimination against women.

Until June she will remain at the Foreign Office but will be seconded to Carl Bildt, the special negotiator in former Yugoslavia. Her job will be to head the Brussels liaison office and implement the civilian arrangements in the peace accords.

The Foreign Office did what it could to stop her leaving, even proposing a specially created Cabinet Office post for a year until the present ambassador to Bonn retires. She would have been the first woman to head a Grade One Embassy, of which there are only seven in the world.

Dame Pauline, created a dame in the last New Year's Honours List, said she was taking the job because "I believe it is the right move to make at this time". She admitted that frustration with her situation at the Foreign Office had played a part in her decision. She wanted to become ambassador to Paris.

but the position went instead to Michael Jay, a Deputy Under-Secretary in charge of relations with Europe and economic affairs.

The Foreign Office said her move did not reflect on the promotion chances of women, who last year accounted for 57 per cent of the intake into its last stream.

Dame Pauline, a strong-willed diplomat with a reputation for intimidating her staff, is a respected but not popular figure in Whitehall. Her relations with Sir John Coles, the Permanent Under-Secretary, are said to have been uneasy. But she has won high praise for her robust defence of British and European interests in standing up to Richard Holbrooke, the American negotiator who attempted to shut the Europeans out of the Dayton peace negotiations.

She was prevented by civil service rules by speaking publicly about her treatment, but it prompted her mother, Dr Celia Winn, to accuse the Foreign Office of discriminating against women.

Tories reject Irish peace conference

BY NICHOLAS WATT AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LONDON and Dublin were at loggerheads again last night, this time over Irish proposals for a Bosnian-style conference to break the deadlock peace process.

Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, said the idea was "at best premature" while Unionists and their Tory supporters at Westminster condemned the proposal as "mischievous" and a "desperate ploy".

Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, proposed that the two governments should invite all political parties in Northern Ireland to two days of intensive talks under the same roof, as President Clinton had done at Dayton, Ohio, with the warring parties in Bosnia. Mr Spring, who dismissed his idea in Dublin with Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said that no party would be forced to sit down with their

opponents at the talks, which would be held at Stormont.

The governments would then shuttle between Unionists and Sinn Féin to try to pave the way for all-party talks. Irish ministers are concerned that the peace process could unravel if Sinn Féin is not brought into inclusive talks by the end of this month.

British officials scoffed at Mr Spring's idea, saying it was unrealistic. They insisted that elections provided the best way of moving towards all-party talks if the IRA refused to disarm.

The Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis said: "The silly thing about Mr Spring's mischievous proposal lies in the fact that terrorist Serb leaders were not permitted to attend the Dayton conference. So I assume similar constraints will be imposed on certain people as far as Mr Spring's proposal is concerned."



Simon Studholme: High Court case pending over his leukaemia death

Peer seeks curbs on use of mobile phones

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PROMINENT member of the Shadow Cabinet plagued fellow travellers as he made almost continuous mobile telephone calls on a recent rail journey between London and Edinburgh. The House of Lords was told yesterday.

The Conservative peer Lord Campbell of Croft told the House that the only "light relief" for the other passengers had been when the politician, whom he did not identify, made loud suggestions as to what the Labour Party should

do about Arthur Scargill, who challenged Labour in the recent Hensworth by-election with his new left-wing party.

Lord Campbell cited the case in pressing the Government to back a code of conduct for the use of mobile phones in public places.

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Trade and Industry Minister of State, voiced support for the idea of having areas on trains, in restaurants and other public places for mobile phone users. But he dismissed a code of conduct as unnecessary.

Lord Campbell said several mobile phones in a restricted area was a serious nuisance. "While they may be necessary in the modern, competitive business world, shouldn't special areas be designated, especially on trains, where passengers suffer unduly especially when voices are raised to shouting when they pass through tunnels?"

Lord Fraser said many people had suffered the "intolerable situation" of being forced to listen to "extremely boring" telephone conversations. "It would be polite if people did not engage in these

phone calls at maximum pitch," he said. "It might be desirable if trains and restaurants did introduce some arrangements of their own."

He said things overheard on the top deck of a bus would often be "brilliant" opening lines for a novel, but he had never heard anything in a mobile phone user's conversation that caught "his imagination".

Lord Beloff, a Tory peer, said people using mobile phones did so to enhance their prestige and should be awarded an alternative "badge of

importance" to wear so that everyone could be spared theedium of their conversations.

Lord Peston, for Labour, suggested a return to enclosed "telephone" boxes into which mobile phone users could step to have their conversations without disturbing others.

Lord Richard, Labour peers' leader, intervened to say this particular problem was likely to remain until only the next election: "After that, the members of the Shadow Cabinet will be in ministerial cars."

One in three unhappy, page 6

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Simon Studholme: High Court case pending over his leukaemia death

Army goes

Five life terms for 'Beast of Belgravia'

Judge attacks hospital chiefs who freed rapist against doctors' advice

BY CAROL MIDDLETON

A RAPIST who attacked a young woman days after being discharged from a psychiatric unit was given five life sentences yesterday. The trial judge criticised a hospital management's decision not to renew a detention order on Grant against the advice of his consultants, social workers and nursing staff.

Grant, 27, was nicknamed the Beast of Belgravia by police because of his claim that the turning point in his life was when he glimpsed the area's wealth during a school trip to an art gallery, and decided he had a "mission" to rape white, middle-class women.

The victim of his new attack, a 20-year-old wine buyer, said last night: "He should not have been let out. He was still very unbalanced. I was with him for one and a half hours and in that time I knew for certain he was not sane. He should never be let out again."

The Old Bailey heard that Grant, accompanied by his mother, gave himself up at Brixton police station on the day of the rape. He ordered police to call him Jesus.

Grant, described as a sexual sadist and paranoid schizophrenic, had already served 10-year sentences, given in 1984, for raping two women when he was 15. His victims had been a 33-year-old housewife and a 20-year-old freelance artist. At the time, he said he was jealous of their wealth.

During his prison term, he was transferred to the Broadmoor top-security hospital in Berkshire. Once his sentence was served, he was sent to Cane Hill Hospital's Regional Secure Unit, south London, under a Mental Health Act order. In January last year, the hospital decided not to renew the detention order and from that morning he was at home, voluntarily, patient.

During home (and weekend)



Grant gave himself up to the police

leaves, he committed a series of violent robberies and aggravated burglaries in which three young women were tied up and terrorised with a gun and a married church-woman was held at gunpoint. He robbed a jeweller in Victoria, London.

Grant had later admitted that he often replaced the medication prescribed to him as an outpatient with crack cocaine. He was formally discharged from Cane Hill on April 12 1995 and last seen as an outpatient on April 21. He committed rape four days later, smashing his way into the woman's home and beating her about the head.

He pulled a knife from her kitchen drawer and warned that he would kill her if she screamed. She was raped three times. The victim, who is single and Roman Catholic, gave evidence against her attacker.

Grant, from Brixton, south London, was said that he would not be eligible for parole for 14 years and may never be fit for release.

The five life sentences are for the rape, two offences of aggravated burglary, armed robbery, and having a firearm with intent. Judge Horridge said: "I have no doubt that

when at large you are a substantial and continuing danger to the public."

Afterwards, the rape victim said: "I am serving a life sentence now, my life has been destroyed. The one thing that has kept me going throughout this is that I want to make sure he doesn't wreck someone else's life like he has mine."

"Things must change so that people like him are not let out unsupervised. I am terrified of being on my own now. I never feel safe. When I go to bed at night, I wear trackie bottoms and a jumper in case I have to make a quick escape. I feel trapped."

"I knew from the moment I saw him that he was imbalanced. In a matter of seconds he would go from one extreme to the other, one minute being violent, the next telling me he loved me and hugging me like I was his girlfriend," she said.

"My one hope was to placate him, although I think he is very clever and very manipulative. It would not surprise me if he had managed to convince the doctors that he was better mentally than he really was. This man should not be released again. To my mind, in Broadmoor he would have too much of an easy life with all those luxuries and doctors giving him attention. All this time I am suffering every day."

She said she was still uneasy with men, but hoped that one day she would recover sufficiently to have the husband and family she has wanted since her youth.

"I am still frightened but I have my dreams. I dream that one day I will have my husband and my own family and be happy. I will not let him take that away from me."

Grant, whose mother runs a catering business in London, said the turning point in his life had come when he went on a school trip to an art gallery in Belgravia. Detective Inspector James Webster, of Brixton CID, said: "What turned him was that he realised that

however hard he worked, he would never be able to achieve or be on a par with the white people in Belgravia. As he saw it, the only way to redress that imbalance was to rape the women there and take their dignity away from them."

Jodi Berg, chairman of the Ravensbourne NHS Trust which is responsible for Cane Hill Hospital, said an inquiry into the circumstances of Grant's discharge had "found no evidence of negligence". He said: "At the time of discharge, Mr Grant was a voluntary patient and therefore not subject to detention under the Mental Health Act. We will be reviewing the results of the enquiry alongside the information gained as a result of the trial to see if any further lessons can be learnt."

When Grant had served his 10-year sentence he was sectioned under the Mental Health Act on the advice of experts and sent to Cane Hill Hospital. When the order expired on January 12 1995, he appealed against it being renewed. Visiting hospital managers saw him and agreed not to renew the order.

A spokeswoman for trust admitted that medical experts had wanted to renew Grant's Section, keeping him as a patient in hospital. She said: "Whilst the responsible medical officer's report supported the renewal of the Section, taking into account all the evidence and information presented on the day the Mental Health Act visiting managers did not feel that the criteria for detention under the Act had been met."

The visiting managers are trained lay people independent of trust management and act as a tribunal making a decision based on all the evidence, including from the patient himself.

A statement from the trust added: "Mr Grant appeared at the hearing and presented extremely well, showed considerable insight into his condition."



Joan McDonough and her husband, the Rev Roger Stokes, who is representing her

Royal chapel 'assumed that female baritone was a man'

BY JOANNA BAILE

A VICAR's wife is claiming sexual discrimination after being rejected as a baritone lay clerk in the Queen's chapel at Windsor Castle.

When her application for the position was turned down, Joan McDonough discovered that staff at St George's Chapel had assumed she was a man. They had written to one of her referees: "This gentleman has recently applied to the Dean and Canon of Windsor to be considered for appointment as a baritone lay clerk."

Dr McDonough, 38, said: "John Allen, the Provost of Wakefield Cathedral, wrote

back saying he felt obliged to say I was not a gentleman. They instantly assumed that it was only a man that could apply for the job."

Dr McDonough, who is studying theology at Leeds University, decided to take the matter to an industrial tribunal, which opened yesterday at Reading, Berkshire, where she was represented by her husband, the Rev Roger Stokes.

She said she saw the post advertised in the *Church Times* a year ago and was attracted to the idea of working at the chapel, which employs 12 men as lay clerks.

"Accommodation was available with the job, which meant my husband could have continued his work as a freelance vicar. She had said in her letter of application that she was a baritone - she used to sing with the Royal Choral Society. 'I am the deepest-singing woman I know.'"

Dr McDonough, of Bailey, West Yorkshire, who is claiming sexual discrimination against the Deans and Canons of Windsor, has yet to give evidence to the tribunal. It was adjourned for consideration of statutes dating from the 14th century.

Muggers jailed for 18 months out after 53 days

BY STEWART TENDLER AND RICHARD FORD

TWO teenage muggers whose sentences were increased from probation to 18 months in jail after police protested against excessive leniency have been released after serving 53 days.

The pair were sent to jail by the Court of Appeal after detectives complained about the original sentence imposed at Southwark Crown Court. The Court of Appeal said the trial judge had failed to recognise that the public needed to be protected from the youths who robbed a man at a cashpoint while on licence from prison where they were serving sentences for another robbery.

Robert Barthelmy and Daniel Hobbs, both aged 19 and unemployed, from Highbury, north London, were released last week under a formula which took into account their period on remand and on bail while they appealed against the sentences.

They were convicted last July of attacking a man drawing money from a cash machine on Tottenham Court Road, central London, in May. They were arrested by officers from the Holborn robbery squad who had been following them as part of a Metropolitan Police campaign against muggings.

They were sentenced to 12 months' probation each and 60 days at an attendance centre but on the same day the Court of Appeal overturned the punishment and sentenced them to 18 months' imprisonment. They were released so soon because anyone sentenced to four years or less automatically serves only half the prison term. The prison service also took into account the 85 days they spent on remand awaiting trial and the time between July 1995 and October when the men spent on bail awaiting the appeal.

Commander Malcolm Campbell, head of the detective force in northwest London, said: "We are disappointed that, after a non-custodial sentence was increased on appeal to 18 months, the two people were freed in so short a time."

Police link widow to TV man's murder

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE widow of a Scottish-born television executive who was murdered in Australia nearly four years ago has been named as the only person with a motive for the killing.

The claim was made at an inquest into the death of Richard Diack, who grew up in the Edinburgh area before emigrating in the 1960s.

Mr Diack, 41, was bludgeoned to death on a remote track in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, in 1992.

At the inquest police alleged that Peruvian-born Ms Bresciani, a broadcaster, erased part of a computer disk containing her husband's diary, which gave details of their deteriorating marriage.

Detective-Sergeant Graeme Merket said that "the only person identified with any possible motive was Emilia Bresciani" but there was no direct evidence to show she had any involvement in the death.

Ms Bresciani said she was hurt by the allegations. "It was very obvious from the beginning that you were treating me as the killer rather than the wife," she told the detective during the hearing in Sydney. The inquest was adjourned.

Duchess denies Bryan's claim to Budgie cash

BY STEPHEN BARRELL

THE Duchess of York promised yesterday to fight any attempt by John Bryan, her former financial adviser, to claim 10 per cent of her earnings from Budgie the Helicopter.

Mr Bryan's German lawyers confirmed that they were to seek payment over the cartoon character, for which the Duchess recently signed a £3 million deal with a consortium of American investors.

The Duchess's private office said last night: "Her Royal Highness The Duchess of York denies absolutely any agreement with Mr Bryan concerning the prospective income from her cartoon character Budgie. She will therefore defend vigorously any proceedings which Mr Bryan might choose to initiate."

The 40-year-old Texas businessman has instructed a Frankfurt firm of solicitors to find out details of the Duchess's American deal, which was announced last month. Mr Bryan, who has severe debt problems over the £10 million collapse of his construction company Oceanics Deutschland, is said to be demanding 10 per cent of global earnings from Budgie, claiming that the Duchess originally promised him one third of income from television, film and publishing



The Duchess originally promised to hand over a third of her Budgie earnings, Mr Bryan claims

rights. Disclosing his intention to sue, he said he had supported her with "millions of dollars" in the early days of their four-year friendship. "Half of my staff were working for her and it was coming all out of my pocket. It was never supported by anyone," he said.

"A lot of people were hired just for her. There were lawyers doing all her deals and administrators for charities - all on my buck."

He claims to have rescued Budgie from disaster when he negotiated the original £25 million deal with the Buckinghamshire company Sleepy Kids in July 1994. "That property was totally dead when I got hold of it," he is reported to have said.

Mr Bryan's move is the

third threat of legal action for the Duchess in recent days. The socialite Lady Maitland is suing for alleged non-payment of a £100,000 loan and the furniture supplier Room Service Designs said it would issue a writ if the Duchess did not keep up £600-a-month payments on rented reproduction antique furniture. The Duchess also has an overdraft, estimated to be up to £3 million, with Coutts.

"Michael Korde, a lawyer with Dr Gropper and Partners of Frankfurt, said: 'It is correct that Mr Bryan wants some money from her over Budgie, the Helicopter. We must speak with the Duchess's lawyers and then we will see what will happen. I believe it will not be necessary to go to court.'"

Army goes gentle on raw recruits

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN ARMY officer who fought in one of the Falklands' toughest battles said yesterday that the new generation of recruits needed the gentle touch.

Lieutenant-General Hew Pike, who commanded the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in the attack on Mount Longdon, told MPs that young people needed more time to acclimatise to army life. Several measures have been introduced to make life easier for the new recruit, to ensure he or she is not put off military life by an overzealous sergeant-major.

Giving evidence to the Commons Defence Select Committee yesterday, General Pike, now deputy commander-in-chief of the Army's Land Command,

underlined the softer approach adopted for recruits.

General Pike, who has a son aged 25 serving with The Parachute Regiment, said: "We are recruiting a generation of young people who seem to need more time to develop the resilience and toughness we require of them. If you try to push it too quickly, they seem to break more quickly than previous generations."

He said medical records proved that the present generation was not as physically tough. "We have to take account of that in our approach to training to give recruits as gentle an introduction to the Army as we can. We don't put them into boots straight away. We monitor the length of marches and so forth. We have less of a sink-or-swim approach than in the past. The committee was told that as part of efforts to

increase recruitment, new members of infantry, tank and gunner regiments are to be given vocational training.

The move has been ordered to try to encourage young men and women to join the infantry instead of units such as the Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, where they are assured highly specialised courses.

The Army is facing a serious shortfall in recruits, particularly in infantry, artillery and cavalry regiments. Senior officers believe parents are advising their children against joining these units because they learn only basic skills that are of little benefit to them in the civilian jobs market.

The Army is also considering reinstating the junior leaders' scheme, which provides training for promising 16-year-olds, and reversing apprenticeship cuts.

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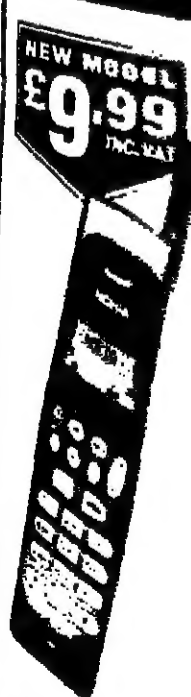
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Carling case does not signal press free-for-all, says Wakeham

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LORD WAKEHAM, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has written to the National Heritage Secretary, defending his decision to reject a complaint about invasion of privacy from Julia Carling.

In his letter to Virginia Bottomley, Lord Wakeham said he was concerned that the case had

given rise to mis-statements and misunderstandings that needed to be corrected. He rejected accusations by Mrs Carling's lawyers that the commission's ruling gave newspapers carte blanche to publicise the private lives of people in the public eye.

He pointed out that the commission is to uphold a complaint about invasion of privacy from the television presenter Selina Scott next month. Ms Scott objected to a News

of the World article which alleged that she had had an affair more than 15 years ago with a man who had given an interview to the newspaper. Ms Scott denies the affair.

In its defence, the News of the World produced numerous articles by Ms Scott and interviews she had given since 1984. The commission will rule that none of these warranted an invasion of her privacy concerning "the reporting of events

in her life a considerable time before".

Last month the commission rejected a complaint against The Sun brought by Mrs Carling, the estranged wife of the England rugby captain. It ruled that she had effectively forfeited her right to privacy by co-operating previously with media articles and interviews designed in part to enhance her career as a television presenter.

The ruling followed comments

by Lord Wakeham that the Princess of Wales might have compromised her right to privacy by giving her Panorama interview.

Mrs Carling's lawyers, Stitt & Co, wrote to Mrs Bottomley, complaining that the ruling would "encourage further media excess in relation to so-called 'public figures'".

Lord Wakeham said that, if true, Stitt & Co's arguments would lead to the "bizarre result" of people in

the public eye being free to give information about their private lives for the purposes of self-publicity and yet able to stifle reporting on the same facts on the ground that a breach of privacy had occurred.

The commission's code of conduct says that "intrusions and inquiries into an individual's private life without his or her consent... are not generally acceptable and publication can only be justified

when in the public interest". There are no specific regulations, however, on people who have willingly put information about themselves into the public domain. Lord Wakeham said that each case was treated on its own merits and emphasised that the fact that a complainant has previously sought publicity did not mean that the press was entitled to publish articles on any subject involving that person or his or her family.

Scotland struggles back to work as roads in the South West are closed by fresh falls

Three killed clearing paths after blizzards

By RICHARD DUCS
GILLIAN BOWDITCH
AND KATE ALDERSON

THREE people collapsed and died while clearing snow from their paths as Scotland recovered from some of the worst weather in 50 years. While most of Scotland, Wales, and western England struggled in the aftermath of heavy snow-falls, fresh blizzards hit the South West.

Hundreds of drivers were trapped in cars and lorries and the main dual carriageway route into Cornwall was closed in several places by drifting snow. Some 2,400 homes suffered power cuts as lines were brought down in heavy winds. The lowest recorded temperature on Tuesday night was -11.3C in Madley, Hereford and Worcester - colder than Helsinki.

Scotland enjoyed a respite yesterday, allowing people in the worst affected region, Dumfries and Galloway, to clear roads and search for those trapped in the snow. But weather forecasters said blizzards would return tomorrow and at the weekend.

The M74, the main route between Scotland and England, reopened 36 hours after it had been cut off. Police began moving 1,000 abandoned vehicles and escorting hundreds of stranded motorists from the emergency centres where they had been sheltering for two days.

The atrocious weather was blamed yesterday for the loss of at least eight lives. Elderly people were warned to stay indoors after three people



Hammond: kept warm by a copy of The Times

from Lanarkshire collapsed and died while clearing snow from their paths. Age Concern said any exertion in the extreme cold could put a strain on the heart and advised people to stay warm and call for help from relatives or friends.

Two people were killed when two vehicles collided on black ice on the A15, at

Weddingham near Lincoln and another man died when his BMW car overturned on the A3 near Petersfield, Hampshire. Dean Hart, 28, died after diving into the Tees to rescue his dog in Stockton, Cleveland. In Liverpool Elizabeth Wilson, 89, died after she was found frozen on her own doorstep.

A lifeboat was launched yesterday to collect and deliver food to 120 children snowed out at St Bess School in the west Cumbrian coastal village of the same name. Captain Leon Goldwater, skipper of the village lifeboat, sailed to Whitehaven five miles along the coast to fetch supplies for the school and 2,000 villagers.

A solicitor said he kept warm by wrapping his copy of the Times around his legs after he was trapped by snow for 24 hours in his car near Whitehaven. An expected two and a half journey home for David Hammond, 53, to Whitburn, Tyne and Wear, took him three days.

At Marwell zoo in Hampshire South African meerkats

were provided with special sun lamps in their outdoor enclosure to combat the cold. Keepers at the hilltop Welsh Mountain Zoo, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, were continually breaking the ice on the penguin and sealion pools to enable them to have a swim.

The holiday firm Inspirations has brought out its 1996-97 winter sun brochure six weeks early. "The winter brochures normally come out in March - but the way the weather is now, people are already thinking about getting away next year," said a spokesman.

A move to introduce automatic cold weather payments in most of the country between December and March each year, whatever the temperature, was launched in the Commons yesterday. The present system is triggered when sub-zero conditions have been reached on seven consecutive days in a specific region.

Under a backbench Bill introduced by Margaret Ewing, parliamentary leader of the Scottish nationalists, people in the coldest part of Britain, northern Scotland, would receive payments of £11.15 a week.

Householders were told yesterday that they could face a legal writ over the clearing of snow from their paths and steps. Kerry Gwyther, a personal injuries solicitor and partner at Lawrence Tuckett of Bristol, said that under the law, if a householder attempted to clear snow and failed to do a proper job of it, he was more liable than if he had left the snow undisturbed.



Sun lamps were used to keep South African meerkats warm at Marwell Zoo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital screened for TB

Twenty patients and 80 staff are to be screened after a junior doctor at Fazakerly Hospital, Liverpool, contracted pulmonary tuberculosis. A spokesman for Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust said the screening was a "precautionary and reassuring" measure. The woman doctor is thought to have contracted the disease working abroad.

Tourists knifed

John Stewart, 66, and Eric Buchanan, 62, from Scotland, were treated in hospital for stab wounds after the fourth attack this month on holidaymakers in Cape Town by gangs of robbers.

Paedophile hunt

Scotland Yard is tracking paedophiles who are using computer graphics to merge pictures of children in magazines and catalogues with pornography in a practice called pseudo-imaging.

Domestic fixture

Manchester United has been granted a licence to hold civil marriages at its Old Trafford ground. But the ceremony can take place only in the club's Premier suite and not on match days.

CORRECTIONS

Although the Confederation of British Industry is opposed to legislation outlawing age discrimination, it does not believe that older workers necessarily cost more or are harder to retrain (report, February 5).
St Peter's C of E High School (report, February 6) is in Exeter, not Plymouth.

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One small step for explorers

Satellite technology moves South Pole to its true position

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

SCIENTISTS have found that the much-photographed post used to mark the location of the South Pole is in the wrong place. American researchers using satellite mapping have discovered that the true spot is about 18in from where previous calculations had placed it.

The discovery means that glaciologists and meteorologists have, unwittingly, been standing in the wrong spot for their traditional group photographs. It also raises the possibility that Amundsen, the Norwegian credited with beating Scott to the Pole, might have undershot his target.

The Pole's new position has been plotted by the United States Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. Gordon Shupe, a scientist with the survey, flew to Antarctica to make sure the marking post was relocated in the proper

place. "It is not a big change. We presume that the new measurement is more accurate, so we yanked it in to where it should be," he said.

Christopher Doake, of the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, said yesterday that the discovery highlighted the increasing accuracy of satellites for mapping.

Ancient explorers used trigonometry, working out their position from the stars, the Moon and the Sun. This method can be accurate to about 100 to 200 yards. The South Pole's previous position was fixed with the use of a constellation of satellites called Transit. They work using the Doppler effect, known to schoolboys as the change in frequency that occurs when a train approaches and passes through a station.

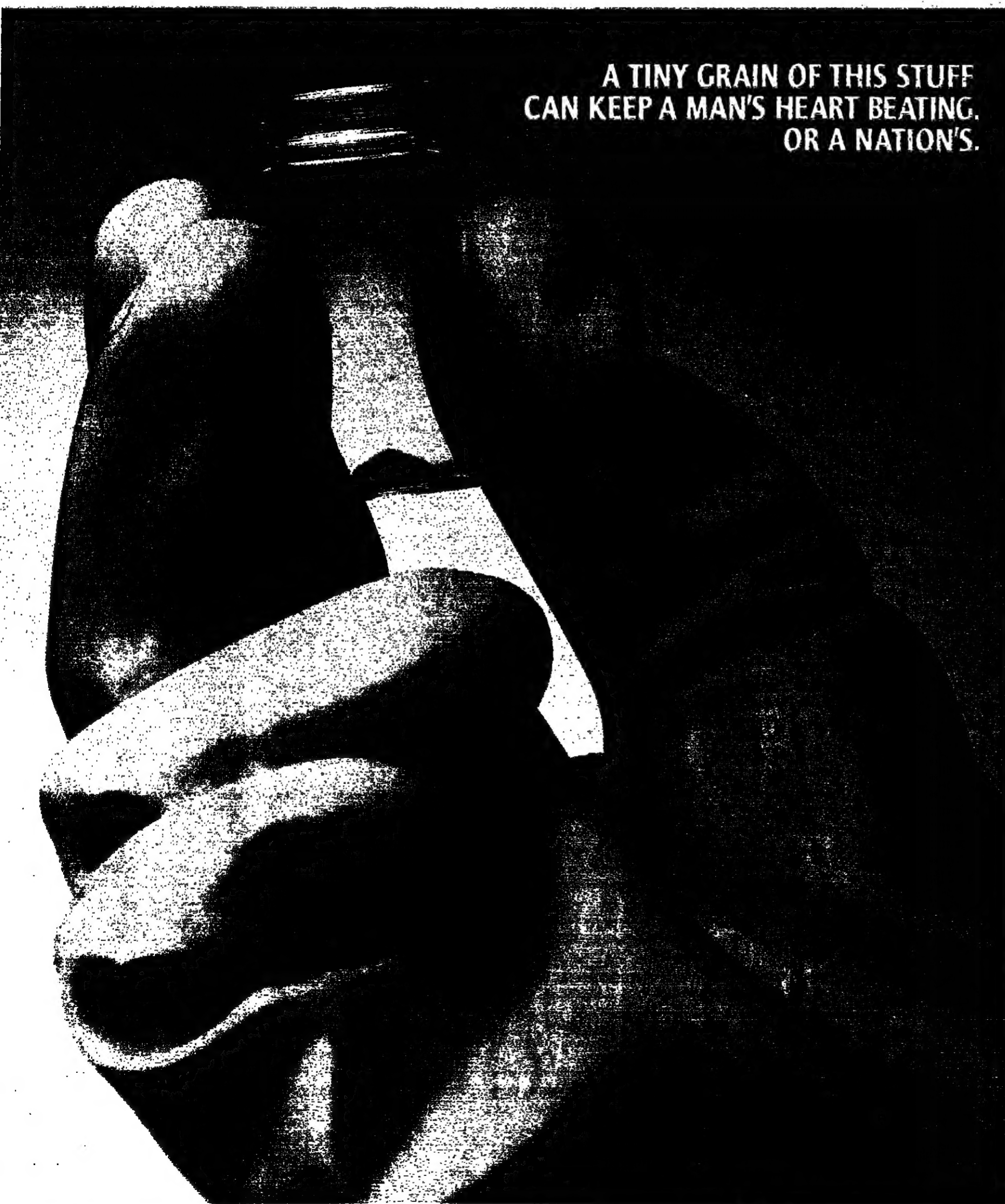
The Americans used the military's network of Global Positioning Satellites, which were also used extensively in the Gulf War to pinpoint troop positions in featureless deserts, to find the Pole's new position. The system is said to be accurate to within a yard, as against tens of yards for the Transit system.

The repositioning of the South Pole, reported in *New Scientist*, is unlikely to be the last word on the affair. Dr Doake pointed out that the location changes with the wobble in the Earth's orbit. Meanwhile, American scientists will not be able to rest on their laurels. The ice sheets in Antarctica move by 10 yards a year, so the posts put in to mark the Pole's position stretch into the distance in a neat line. Because of the correction, there is now a slight kink in the line.



Paradise station, the oldest base in the Antarctic peninsula, which is being renamed Vernadsky when the Ukrainians take over today.

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Plutonium is a mighty feared substance. Can all the legends about it be true?

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Britain's farewell to Antarctic base

A CHAPTER in Antarctic history comes to a close today when Britain hands over the Faraday research station to Ukraine (Nick Nuttall writes). The oldest base on the Antarctic peninsula has been used for studying weather, the Earth's magnetic field and the ozone layer since it was set up during the British Graham Land Expedition of 1934-37.

The cost of upgrading it to modern health and safety standards has been deemed too costly. Instead the base is being given to the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, so Ukraine can restart Antarctic research after losing access to former Soviet bases.

Under the terms of the recent Antarctic environment protocol, old bases must be dismantled and removed. The handover will save £1 million in dismantling costs. Ukraine has agreed to give British scientists free data for at least a decade.

The British Antarctic Survey, which ran Faraday, has four remaining bases, at Rothera, Halley, Signy and

Bird Island. It said the loss of Faraday did not mark a rundown in research, as other bases are being expanded to accommodate more scientists with £4 million of government cash.

Today the final party of British staff sets sail on *HMS Endurance*, the ice patrol vessel. The base will be renamed Vernadsky.

There was speculation yesterday that one of Russia's Antarctic bases is to be temporarily closed to save cash, putting at risk an international drilling experiment to take ice samples dating back 300,000 years.



One in three 'unhappy' with mobile telephones

By Robin Young

DISSATISFACTION is rife among mobile phone users, according to a survey published today by the Consumers' Association.

It says customers are obliged to sign lengthy contracts with unreliable networks for phones that often cut off in mid-call. Researchers found that almost three quarters of those paying for mobile phones had experienced problems, while nearly four out of ten said they would hand their mobile back, change tariff or move network if they could do so without financial penalty.

More than a third of 2,891 respondents to the survey were dissatisfied with at least one crucial aspect of the service. Their complaints included being cut off for no apparent reason, failing to connect to their network or having to have the mobile phone repaired.

There are more than five million users of mobile phones in Britain and the four competing networks - Cellnet, Mercury one2one, Orange and Vodafone - expect to add at least another three million users this year.

Overall, customers of Mercury one2one and the Vodafone analogue network were found to be unhappiest, while those with Orange were least dissatisfied.

Heart tests focus on importance of anger

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

SCIENTISTS are to try to discover if angry people are more likely to have heart attacks. In the first British study on links between personality and heart disease, researchers are to measure levels of hostility in 1,300 men and women aged 60 to 80 and compare the results with heart problems suffered by them.

Personality tests will measure neuroticism, extroversion, conscientiousness and agreeableness. A separate questionnaire will look at how people deal with anger and the extent to which they express or suppress hostile feelings.

Research dating back to the 1960s has tried to show that people with a "type A" personality are more prone to heart attacks. "Type A" people are characterised by aggressive and impatient actions, rapid emphatic speech and competitiveness. The link has never been proved, but interest has focused on hostility as the key element in the type A personality that predisposes people to suffer heart attacks.

The £37,000 study will be funded by the British Heart Foundation. Professor Brian Pentecost, of the foundation, said: "A proper understanding of the psychological factors which predispose to heart disease is central to any programme of prevention."

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Teachers told to put Schubert before pop to save heritage

Schools must not blur boundary of culture, says curriculum chief

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS must introduce their pupils to high culture and help them to escape the growing creed that sees no difference between Schubert and Blur, Nicholas Tate, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, said yesterday.

Dr Tate, who recently called for a new moral code to be taught in schools, yesterday attacked "cultural relativism" and "romantic individualism" for encouraging children to place equal value on Milton and Mills & Boon, or Vermeer's *View of Delft* and Damien Hirst's dead sheep.

British heritage, and with it the notion of strong communities and shared values, was in danger of disintegrating unless teachers actively transmitted it. Just as Dr Tate wants children to be taught right from wrong, they should learn which works of art, music and literature are better than others. The revised national curriculum already insists, for example, that children should read two Shakespeare plays before the age of 14 and learn mainly British history.

But Dr Tate, launching a three-day conference called *Culture and Society*, proposed a series of "big ideas" to clarify the purpose of the national curriculum. He said: "A fundamental purpose



Cult or culture: Damon Albarn, lead singer of the group Blur, and Schubert

of the school curriculum is to transmit an appreciation of and commitment to the best of the culture we have inherited. We need a more active sense of education as preserving and transmitting, but in a way that is forward looking, the best of what we have inherited from the past."

Dr Tate challenged the growing trend towards multi-media study by saying books must remain the medium of the future. Other "big ideas" included grounding the curriculum in ancient Greece and Rome, Christianity and European civilisation, and ensuring

that "English English", not some watered-down modern version, was taught.

"The final big idea is that we should aim to develop in young people a sense that some works of art, music, literature or architecture are more valuable than others," he said. "By the post-modern view there are no differences in value between, say, Schubert's *Awake Maria* and the latest Blur release, or between Milton and Mills & Boon."

"The final big idea therefore is that a key purpose of the curriculum is to introduce young people to some of the

characteristics of what traditionally has been known as "high culture", the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. I am not saying that young people should spend all their time studying Jane Austen and Shakespeare or listening to Bach and Mozart. What I am suggesting is that we, their educators, should give these things their proper value as, in the words of Matthew Arnold, "the best that has been known and thought."

Other speakers opposed Dr Tate's belief. Raphael Samuel, head of history at Ruskin College, Oxford, said: "His-

ory is an argument about the past as well as a record of it. Its excitement is that it introduces children to the unfamiliar and the exotic. Lessons should be devised to encourage children to disagree and to question."

"I think the whole thought of transmitting heritage runs against the spirit of cultural inquiry. Memory-keeping and respect for the past are things historians ought to have regard to but I do not think that is what history lessons should be about."

Anne Barnes, chief executive of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said teachers constantly emphasised the difference between high culture and popular works. "Nobody disputes that Milton is better than Mills & Boon. Everybody wants all children to be introduced to Milton but if they bring Mills & Boon into the classroom then that has to be discussed in its own terms."

Bishop David Konstant, chairman of the Catholic Education Service, said the plural nature of society made it difficult to define a national culture. "We should be encouraging unity by developing a proper understanding of the value of difference and of the need to reconcile differences peacefully," he said.

Nicholas Tate, page 18



Chantelle Coleman, who tells her father English is too easy

Girl's feat speaks volumes

BY BILL FROST

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl from Wales has taught herself to speak German in six weeks. Chantelle Coleman, from St Athan, South Glamorgan, Mensa's second youngest member, is said to have an IQ of 152.

When an Austrian magazine heard Chantelle had joined Mensa, a reporter came to interview her in December. "She had never

heard a foreign language and was fascinated," her mother Margaret, 28, said. "She started to repeat the German words, then wanted to know what they meant."

"She asks for her breakfast in German every morning. I tell her to speak English but she hands me her German phrasebook and tells me to look up what she says."

Her father Alan, 28, taught her to count in German and the few words he learnt in the

RAF. "After that we had to buy her a phrasebook and tapes," Mr Coleman said. "It's like having a foreigner for a daughter. She has mastered English and says it's too easy."

Asel Riche, lecturer in German at the University of Wales, said: "German is one of the most difficult languages to learn for English speakers. She must have remarkable intelligence to pick up the language so quickly."

Universities' threat of entrance fee wins no concessions from minister

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Government refused to give in yesterday to vice-chancellors' threat of a £300 entrance fee for undergraduates and ruled out an early commitment to an expanded student loans system.

Eric Forth, the Higher Education Minister, accused universities of ignoring the practical difficulties of their plans. The minister also questioned the need for more higher-education places when

the present recruiting freeze ended.

The vice-chancellors' proposal for an entry fee to be introduced in 1997 was prompted by budget cuts. They believe that students must pay a greater share of university costs, aided by "income-contingent" loans repaid over a long period. But Mr Forth told a Tory conference in London: "One of the things that slightly irritates me about the debate that we are now hearing is the idea that if you say 'income-contingent loan'

sufficiently frequently, the problems will go away."

Mr Forth, who is responsible for a government review of higher education launched more than a year ago, said questions remained unanswered. Among them was whether further university expansion would benefit the economy and could be sustained without damaging the quality of education.

Other options for increasing the skills of the workforce would be to channel teenagers into further education colleges or work-based vocational training. "There is a very interesting discussion to be had around what proportion of the population can reasonably be expected to benefit from what we define as higher education," Mr Forth said.

Nearly a third of young people now go on to higher education. The Conservative Political Centre, which organised the conference, called for the proportion to increase, with the costs met by replacing student grants with

a system of privatised loans.

Sir Cyril Taylor, chairman of the City Technology Colleges Trust and one of the authors of the report, said there would be pressure for more university places from the growing numbers taking A levels. "I don't think it is part of Conservative philosophy to deny people that opportunity, provided that standards are maintained."

Clive Booth, vice-chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said Mr Forth had been badly briefed if he believed there were doubts about the practicality of the universities' proposals.

Government policy also came under attack from Sir Eric Ash, chairman of the Student Loans Company, who described the privatisation plans before Parliament as "unnecessarily complicated". Sir Eric said it would have been better for a consortium of financial institutions to take over the company, rather than trying to set up a new network.

Aid worker accused of taking baby

A BRITISH charity worker has been charged with smuggling a baby out of Romania. John Boast is alleged to have taken the 15-month-old girl from a hospital in Oradea last year and illegally transported her to Britain.

The child was found last year in northeastern Britain in the custody of an English family.

Mr Boast, 47, who works for the Great Harwood charity, denies the charge. He faces up to five years in jail if convicted. The trial is expected to start on March 1.

Appeal defeat for the jealous killer who changed her story

A JAILED axe murder who originally denied the killings ten years ago failed yesterday in an attempt to claim a new defence of diminished responsibility.

Heather Arnold, now 59, had changed her story about the deaths of a teaching colleague's wife and child, but it was not credible that a court would believe her, Lord Justice Hobhouse said at the Court of Appeal.

A claim of diminished responsibility was available at the time of her murder trial, but instead she put forward an

alibi. A jury at Bristol Crown Court had found her guilty of the 1986 murders of Jeanne Sutcliffe and Heidi, her baby, at Westbury, Wiltshire.

Years later, during counselling, she told psychiatrists that she had been depressed and "hated" Mrs Sutcliffe, whom she believed was trying to stop her being closer to Paul Sutcliffe, a fellow mathematics teacher at Warmminster.

Dr Dilys Jones, leading consultant psychiatrist at Broadmoor top security hospital, said in a 1993 report that Arnold should appeal against

conviction because it would be more appropriate for her to be managed under the Mental Health Act rather than as a life prisoner.

Lord Justice Hobhouse, sitting with Mr Justice Laws and Mr Justice Butterfield, said they were being asked to substitute verdicts of "not guilty of murder, guilty of manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility" or order a retrial. However, he said: "It is clear that she is not a person who can be treated as credible in the present matter."



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Corrections: the number of Dan's Restaurant, 119 Sydney Street, London SW3, is 0171 521 2718; the number of The Priory Hotel, Church Green, Wareham is 01929 551666.
Additions to our guide: French Connection Restaurant, Edenfield Rd, Chessden, Rochdale, Lancs, two-course lunch T. W. Th. F. Sat, Tel: 01706 50167.
The Cauldron Bistro, High St, Swanage, Dorset, two-course lunch, W. Th. F. S. Sun, Tel: 01929 422671.
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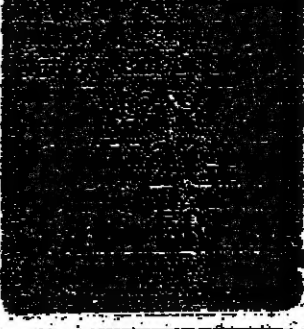
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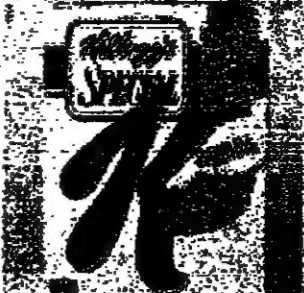
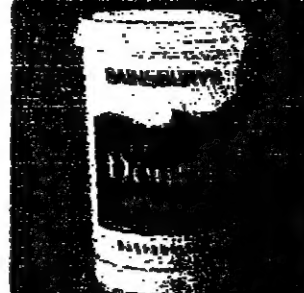


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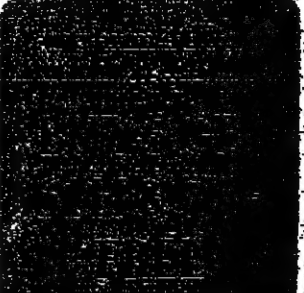
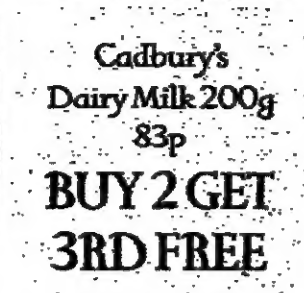
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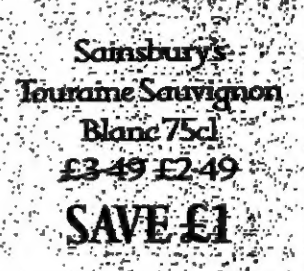
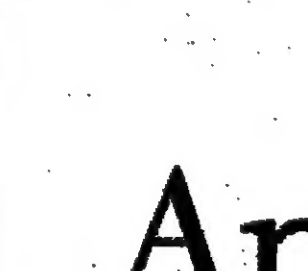
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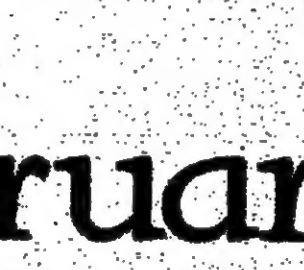
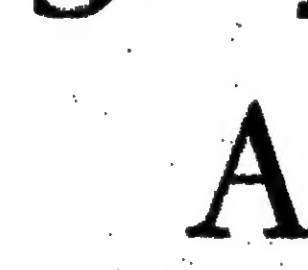
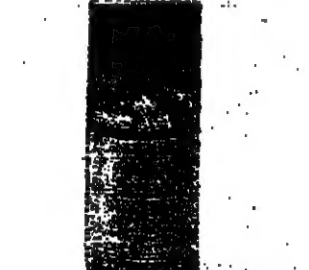
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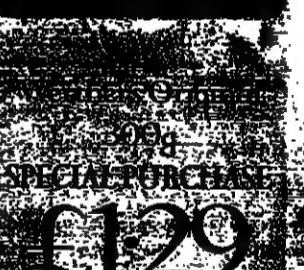
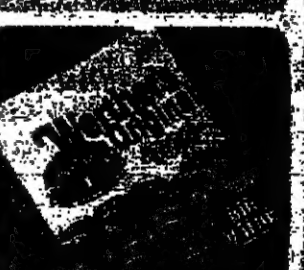
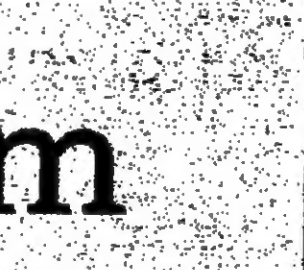
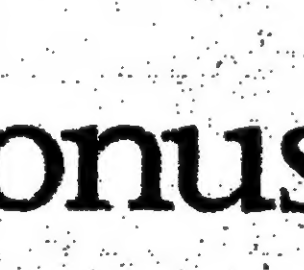
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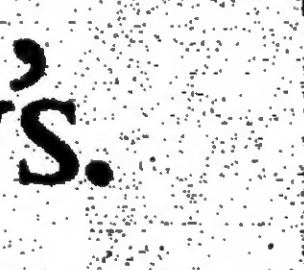
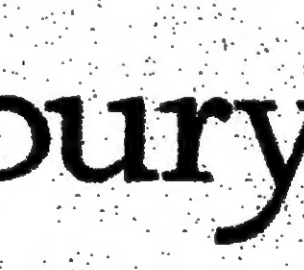
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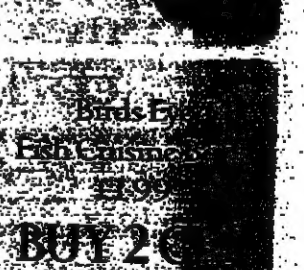
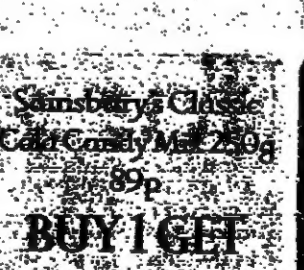
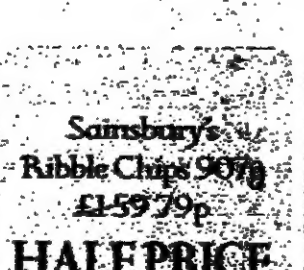
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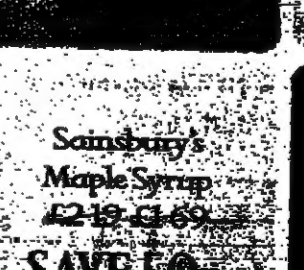
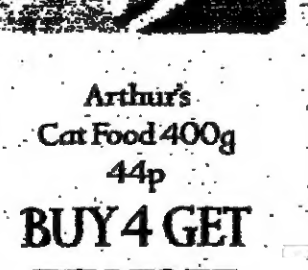
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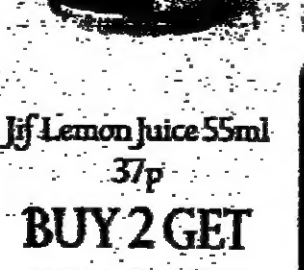
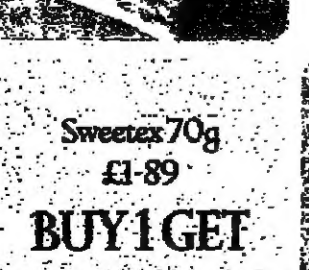
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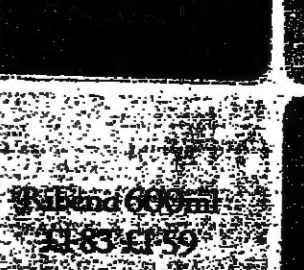
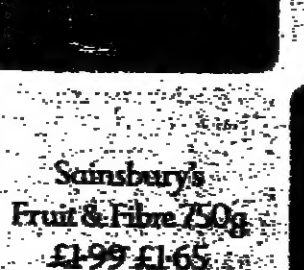
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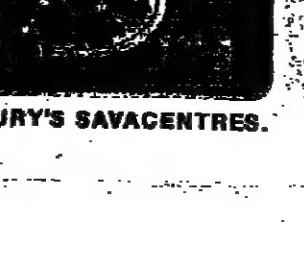
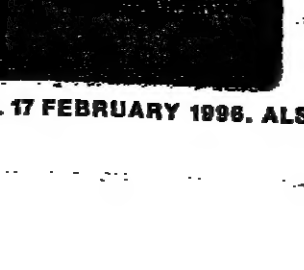
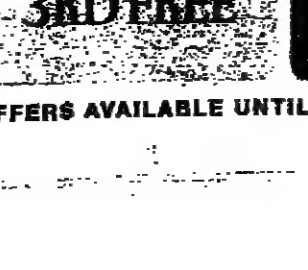
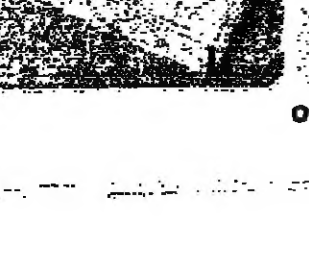
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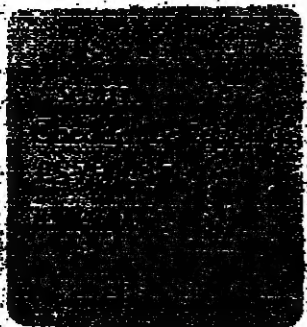
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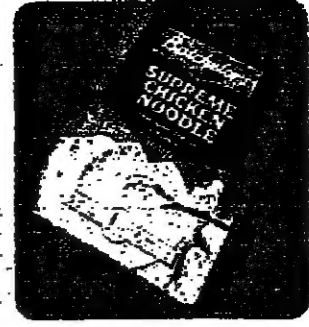
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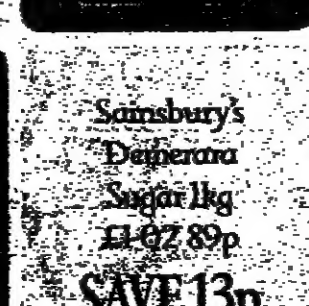
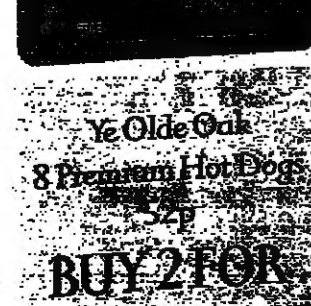
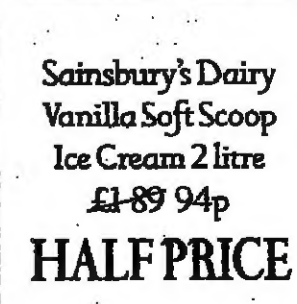
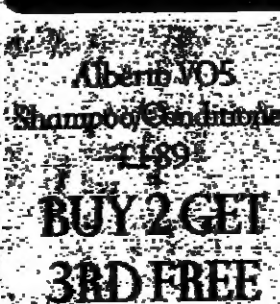
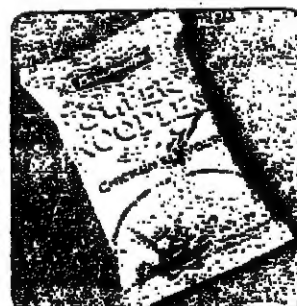
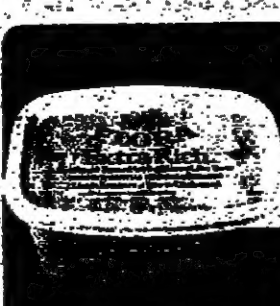
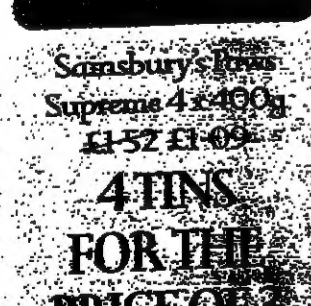
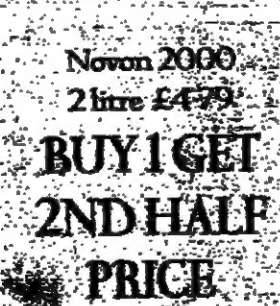
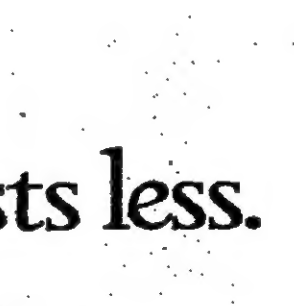
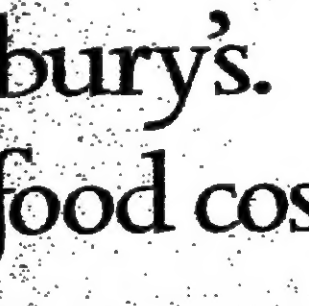
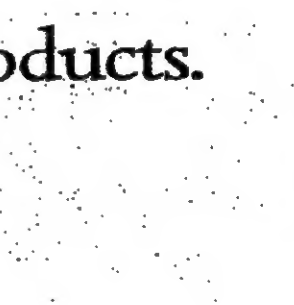
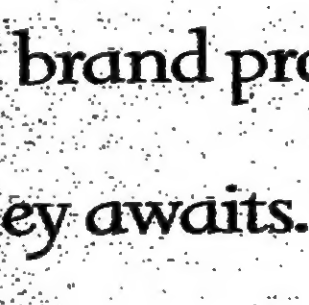
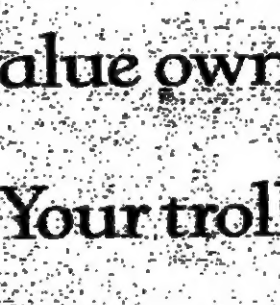
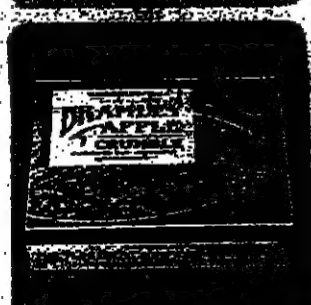
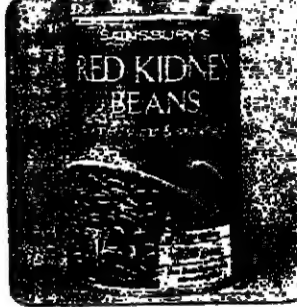
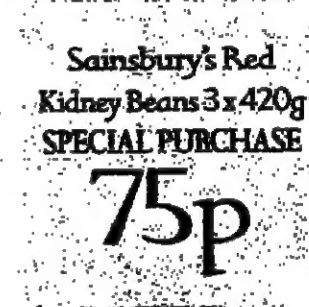
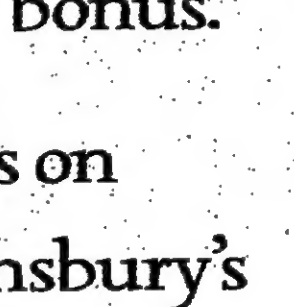
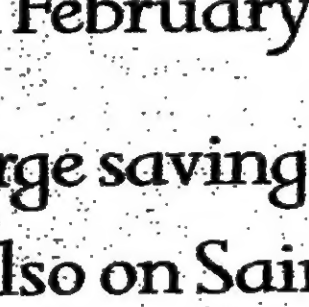
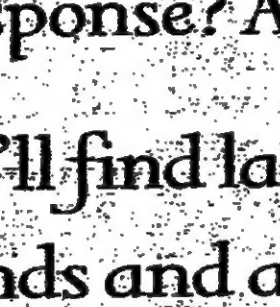
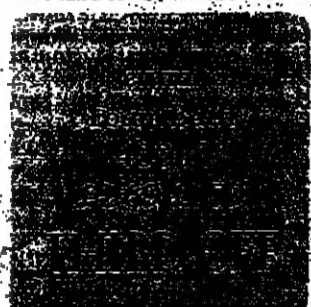
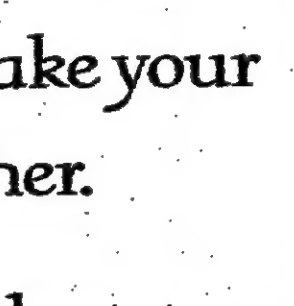
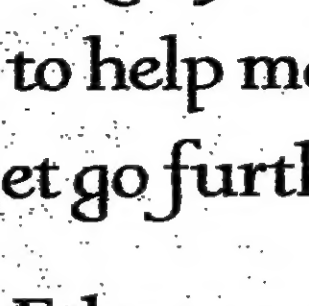
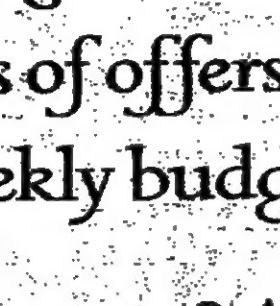
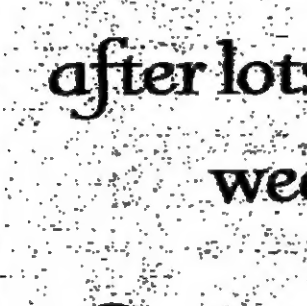
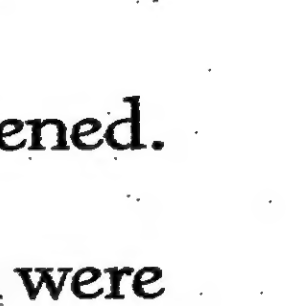
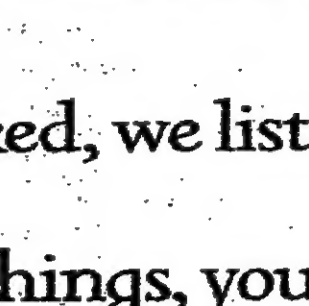
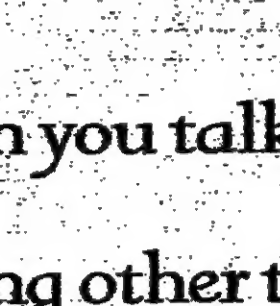
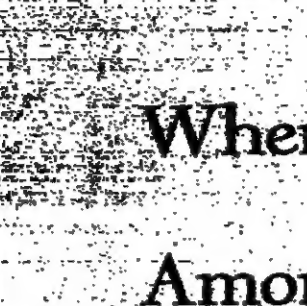
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Immigration tribunal declares millionaire's adopted son is young man of promise

Nepalese heir to fortune 'should not be deported'

By JOANNA BALE

A FORMER mountain boy from Nepal, heir to an 18th-century castle and a £1.5 million fortune, should be allowed to stay in Britain, an immigration tribunal said yesterday.

Jay Khadka, 19, was rescued from poverty by Richard Morley, a millionaire businessman, to honour a pact with the teenager's dead father. The tribunal concluded that "there would be little sense" in deporting Jay, although the final decision rests with the Home Office.

The appeal heard evidence from four members of a community set up by Mr Morley at Clearwell Castle in the Forest of Dean, where he and Jay live. The members, including Mr Morley's girlfriend, Helen Thomas, testified that Jay had become Westernised and that it would be a tragedy if he were to be deported. The appeal report said: "They told us that Jay was the heir apparent to the

leadership of the community. There is not the slightest danger that Mr Khadka would ever become a burden on public funds."

The report said the tribunal had been impressed by Jay's readiness to admit he would visit his family in Nepal, but added that having to live there would be traumatic for him after his experiences in Britain. "He appears a young man of promise and it would be regrettable if that promise were to be fundamentally affected by a legal process over which, in our view, he has probably had little control."

Mr Morley, 41, who has brought up Jay as his son since July 1990, said yesterday that he would leave Britain for Nepal if Jay were deported. "This is not a question of wealth or bureaucracy, but of human relationships. I therefore call upon the Government to accept the recommendations," he said.

Mr Morley said that Jay

should be given indefinite leave to remain in Britain under "exceptional compassionate circumstances", which would make him eligible for citizenship after five years.

Jay, who speaks perfect English and worked as head chef at the castle's former hotel, said: "I have grown up here, been educated and now have close family and friends. If I went back to Nepal I would be isolated from my family and people there might not be able to understand me. It would be heartbreaking."

The two met after Mr Morley punctured a lung in a climbing accident in Nepal in 1984. Jay's father Basu, a policeman, trekked for three days through the mountains to seek help.

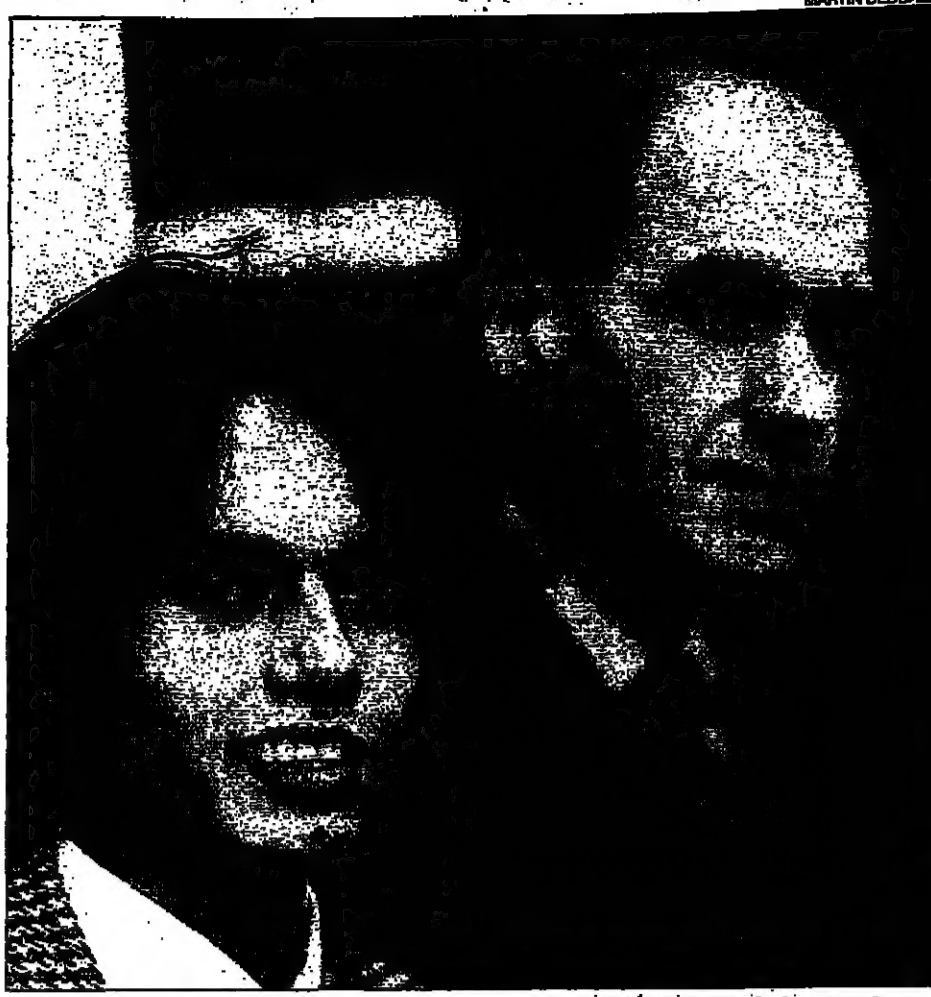
Mr Morley offered him money as a reward, but he refused and, instead, made him promise that he would care for Jay when he died. The former naval officer, who made his fortune in comput-

ers, returned to Nepal in 1990 after the death of Basu and found Jay working in a stone mine in a mountain village. He spoke no English.

Jay lived first at Mr Morley's seafront flat in Margate, Kent. Mr Morley, a widower, bought Clearwell Castle in 1994. The teenager was educated at home, reading Dickens, Orwell and Homer. He also studied fine art and classical music.

Mr Morley, who has no children, has made Jay heir to his fortune, which includes a £220,000 flat in Bloomsbury, the Margate apartment, an art collection, and a 5,000-book library at the castle.

Mr Morley said: "Jay was born under extremely auspicious religious circumstances, predicted by a guru in a Buddhist temple. He was born at a precise moment when the stars were in their maximum ascendancy and the moon was in the lowest point during the festival of the goddess Kali."



Jay Khadka with Richard Morley after the tribunal supported their appeal

Old soldier knifed man for insult on VJ-Day

By A STAFF REPORTER

A VETERAN of the Burma campaign walked free from court yesterday after he admitted stabbing a man who provoked him as he was commemorating the fifth anniversary of VJ-Day.

Edward Field, 71, a member of the Burma Star Association, had come to the Old Bailey with his campaign medals. He went in the dock as he was given a two-year suspended jail sentence for wounding John McKenna, 40.

The incident happened after both men, who knew each other slightly, had been drinking. The court was told that Field was insulted when he tried to pass Mr McKenna and a friend in the street. This added to his feelings of humiliation over remarks about his army service made by Mr McKenna earlier.

Field, of Chertsey, Surrey, lashed out with a knife. "His feelings were like a time-bomb," Jeremy Carter-Manning, QC, said. Mr McKenna suffered minor injuries and was discharged from hospital the next morning.

Cost cutting forces closure of political correctness units

By IAN MURRAY

THREE council departments set up to counter discrimination and promote political correctness are being disbanded as part of a city's economy drive.

Birmingham will save £1.5 million a year by scrapping the units, which had a staff of 73 covering women's affairs, race relations and equal opportunities. They will be merged into one central equalities policy unit with a workforce of 21. Surplus staff will be redeployed to other departments.

The women's and race relations units were set up 12 years ago and grew steadily in size and influence despite widespread criticism of their activities. Among ideas for which they were responsible were a Christmas with no religious symbols, to avoid the risk of offending ethnic minorities, and a £150,000 festival of racial tolerance.

The women's unit organised an annual £100,000 women's festival, which included events for bringing together lesbians with disabilities and a history of black lesbians.

In an attempt to make staff aware of prejudice, social ser-

vices consultants were called in and advised that white staff should wear badges saying "I am a racist". The council spent thousands of pounds employing interpreters to translate English into pidgin for residents who speak Caribbean patois.

The women's unit issued an instruction that all females between 50 and 70 should be referred to as "women elders" in council documents.

Pressure to get rid of the departments built up last year when they were spared cuts imposed on frontline services, including old people's homes, libraries and swimming pools. The need to make further economies this year because of the Government's tight rein on local authority spending has forced the city's controlling Labour group to take a decision to abolish them.

Brenda Clarke, the councillor who has been chairing a working party into the future of the units, said that they had done valuable pioneering work. "Their achievements have been real and measurable despite the often negative publicity from some parts of the media," she said.

Bargain buyer finds vacuum-packed gold

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BARGAIN hunter who bought a second-hand vacuum cleaner for £2.65 was not too surprised when it blew up the first time he used it. But when Mike Thornton set about repairing it, he was stunned to find the dust bag contained gold jewellery worth at least £7,000.

Sparkling among the dirt were 17 gold rings, bracelets, necklaces, religious pendants and other gold trinkets. The hoard has been returned to its original owner and Mr Thornton, a maintenance engineer from Doncaster, South

Yorkshire, has received a £100 reward for his honesty.

Police traced the cleaner to a woman who lived 40 miles away in Nottingham and had used it as a hiding place for family treasures. When they moved house, her daughter dumped the cleaner in a skip. By the time her distraught mother discovered what had happened, a scavenger was recycling it in a saleroom.

Mr Thornton said yesterday: "I couldn't believe my eyes when I opened it up and all this gold just dropped on to the floor."



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Ministers accused of discrediting arms-to-Iraq report

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats accused the Government yesterday of a black propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting the findings of the Scott inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, called on John Major to declare his confidence in Sir Richard Scott's impartiality and to repudiate the attacks by Lord Howe of Aberavon and Douglas Hurd. Mr Cook predicted a week of intensive Government "spinning" and "dumbing down" of the report by ministers, while everyone else was kept in the dark about the report's contents.

A team of up to 17 government officials formed to respond to the report began work yesterday afternoon after receiving copies in advance of its publication, David Gould, a former senior Ministry of Defence official, is in

charge of co-ordinating the operation and briefing ministers.

Mr Cook claimed that the response was being dictated by party political considerations. "The Government effort is not invested in promoting the public interest but in protecting ministers' interests," he said.

With a week still to go before publication, Westminster is already captivated by the report, which threatens the careers of at least two ministers. William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General.

As rumour and counter-rumour circulated in the Commons bars and tearooms last night, most observers believed that whatever gloss was put upon the report, it promised very bad news for the Government. The Liberal Democrat Mezzies Campbell said: "If

they thought Sir Richard was going to pat Lyell and Waldegrave on the back this campaign of 'denigration' would not be happening."

Mr Cook said he feared that the report would be selectively leaked by government sources who felt "free to do so knowing no one can tell if they are telling the truth."

Labour is anxious to keep the focus on what it regards as the key issues: whether the guidelines on exports to Iraq were changed and whether ministers deceived Parliament about the policy on defence sales to Saddam Hussein.

Mr Cook said that in 1989 Mr Waldegrave, then a junior Foreign Office Minister, had signed 27 letters to MPs assuring them that the Government had not changed its policy on defence sales to Iraq. "If the Scott report concludes that those letters were not true and that Mr Waldegrave was in a position to know they were not true, he must go."

The other main issue is whether Sir Richard concludes that ministers were prepared to allow innocent men in the Matrix Churchill trial to go to jail rather than to disclose secret documents to the court. Mr Cook said that if that was the conclusion the Government could not escape by sacrificing Sir Nicholas, who urged other ministers to sign the certificates withholding material vital to the defence.

"The Government cannot pass the buck to Lyell as if he were a family solicitor who came up with the wrong advice. It was a collective policy."

Mr Cook also questioned why the Prime Minister, who set up the inquiry, was not presenting the report to the House himself. He said that Mr Major was seeking to "deflect the heat".

The Association of First Division Civil Servants was consulting its lawyers yesterday over the position of Whitehall officials criticised in the report. Liz Symons, general secretary, said: "It is not the senior people but our fear is that a few middle-ranking officials could be left carrying the can."



Redwood urges Major to stand against EMU

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR was on a collision course with Tory Euro-sceptics last night after the former minister John Redwood unveiled a hard-line manifesto for next month's summit on the future of the European Union.

Mr Redwood challenged the Prime Minister by saying that the pre-summit White Paper on European policy should oppose a single currency.

With increasing turmoil on the Continent over the practicality of launching economic and monetary union in 1999, Mr Major and his senior colleagues have decided to duck the issue in the White Paper. For tactical reasons, they have decided it would be better if Britain's partners took the lead in slowing down the Maastricht timetable for a single currency.

But yesterday Mr Redwood, backed by leading Euro-sceptic MPs, said that it was time the Government came out the fence. Publishing his own version of the White Paper, expected shortly before the inter-governmental conference in Turin on March 29, he said: "The UK should set out the case against an exclusive monetary union of a few countries in the centre, and the implausibility of a monetary union incorporating many states. Monetary union would be bad for Britain, bad for the excluded states and bad for France and Germany."

Britain's task was to "voice fears" across the EU that a single currency would mean budget cuts, high interest rates, and too tight monetary policies.

Mr Redwood was supported by Bill Cash, one of the leaders of the Maastricht rebellion. "We should say 'No' to a single currency now," Mr Cash said. "We should do that in the White Paper because it is quite clear from all the events in Europe recently... that it is only by saying 'No' emphatically that we will be able to influence the direction in which Europe is going."

But senior ministers are taking the opposite tack, saying that Britain can maximise its influence over plans for a single currency by refraining from outspoken demands.

In another ominous development for Mr Major, the eight former whipless Tory rebels promised their own paper on the IGC next week, saying it would be more hard-line than Mr Redwood's. Mr Redwood, in his six-page paper, also called for curbs on the powers of the European Court of Justice, saying that it was "time the High Court of Parliament reasserted its pre-eminence. He said that France and Germany were sometimes prepared to overrule the European court and that Britain might be pleasantly surprised if it sounded out the opinions of other states."

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Both parties need to think again on the constitution

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The main parties want to make constitutional reform a centrepiece of the election campaign. But their approaches are flawed, in opposite ways. On the one hand, while the Tories' defence of the status quo is unconvincing, some of their queries about the Opposition's proposals are valid. On the other hand, while Labour is on strong ground in challenging current arrangements, there are many unresolved questions about their specific proposals.

Of the two cases put forward yesterday, the Tories' is the shakier. Brian Mawhinney tried to have it both ways. He proclaimed the glories of our institutions, invoking Disraeli to state that "under John Major's leadership, the Conservative and Unionist Party will fight tooth and nail for Britain's constitution". Yet, at the same time, Dr Mawhinney quoted Burke to argue that "a state without the means of some change is without the means of its conservation" and pointed to the Tory tradition of rolling constitutional reform. He cited the creation of the departmental select committees, the reduction of Government secrecy, the formation of the Nolan committee etc. This is a stronger record than is commonly recognised, but it undermines the Tory attempt to argue that Labour's proposals are "threatening" and amount to an attempt to "foist an entirely new constitutional order" which "would rip apart the United Kingdom".

The real argument is not whether there should be constitutional reform, but what form it should take. MORI's state of the nation polls have repeatedly shown that a big majority of the public is unhappy with the way Britain is governed. In part, this is because the Tories have been in office for so long, removing some of the normal checks and balances and increasing the powers of central government.

Tony Blair sought yesterday to move the debate away from the "chattering classes". He mostly avoided the absolutist language of the Charter 88 type of radical reformers. Throughout his lecture, he presented the argument for

reform on a case-by-case basis and rejected the call of some Labour MPs for a Big Bang approach. He said there would not be a Great Reform Bill which would attempt all this change at once. Reforms will be achieved "over a period of time".

Several of his specific proposals are likely to be popular and make sense, such as directly elected mayors for London and other large cities, creating a new elected authority for the capital and incorporating the European Convention of Human Rights into British law. The Tories would also be ill-advised to make a stand in defence of hereditary peers, the Lords has virtues as a revising chamber, and as a check on the Commons, but its present composition involves a heavy, and persistent, Tory bias.

Mr Blair, however, failed to address some key questions. There is strong demand for legislative devolution in Scotland, but there are implications for the Westminster Parliament — the number and role of Scottish MPs in the Commons — which Mr Blair ignored. Any devolution Bill will be a parliamentary nightmare unless Labour produces answers to these questions. He also made a gesture towards the Liberal Democrats in recognising more fully than he has in the past the strength of feeling about electoral reform and reaffirming his commitment to a referendum. But he repeated his own doubts about proportional representation, leaving a deliberate ambiguity.

The Tories may rally some disaffected former supporters by playing the constitutional/nationalist card, while Labour's reform agenda will appeal to the "time for a change" constituency. At present, both parties exaggerate, claiming that the constitution's survival depends on their victory. The Tories need to be less dogmatic and Labour has to address the flaws in its approach.

PETER RIDDELL

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: Foreign Office questions: Labour-indebted defence on rail privatisation and "renowned threat of Post Office privatisation" backbench debate on various aspects of the report, including employment in financial services, industrial relations, overseas aid, Community Development Finance Corporation, and the Prime Minister's second reading. **TODAY** in the Commons: questions to Treasury ministers and the Prime Minister followed by a debate on the report.

January 1991: Cabinet overseas and defence committee discuss "how to exploit Iraq's promising market for arms exports".

October 1992: Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, tells MPs that Britain would not approve, orders that would risk prolonging or escalating the Iran-Iraq war.

May 1993: Matrix Churchill tells MPs that Iraq is using British machinery to make weapons.

January 1994: Alan Clark, Trade Minister, gives a "road and bridge" to Matrix Churchill's machine-tool exports knowing they would be used in Iraq arms factories.

August 1994: Iran-Iraq conflict.

December 1994: Clark and William Waldegrave agree to a "50" towards Iraq, relating guidelines on arms-related exports.

February 1995: Ministers agree to further exports to Iraq, knowing they would be used to make weapons.

November 1995: Mrs Thatcher tells MPs that "supplies of British defence equipment to Iraq and Iran continue to be governed by guidelines introduced in 1985".

April 1995: Customs seize pipes destined for "suspect".

July 31, 1995: Matrix Churchill told by DTI officials that last batch of machine tools cleared for export.

August 2, 1995: Kuwait invasion.

February 1996: Paul Henderson and two other colleagues from Matrix Churchill arrested.

November 1995: Matrix Churchill trial collapses. Major announces inquiry and Scott is appointed.

May 1996: Public hearings start.

October 1996: Waldegrave tells Scott there had been no change in export guidelines but admits "an understandable misunderstanding".

December 1996: Clark tells Scott that Waldegrave's evidence is "slightly Alice in Wonderland".

June 1996: Lines of draft report show Waldegrave accused of "sophistry".

February 1996: Report completed.

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Bob Sparks wakes with a start and calls to pay his gas bill.

23:30

Svetlana hopes to atone for sins of atheist father who slaughtered millions of Soviet citizens

Stalin's daughter seeks sanctuary by taking the veil

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AFTER a lifetime spent trying to escape the bloody legacy of her father, Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's only daughter, may finally have found a sanctuary for her tortured soul.

After the break-up of four marriages and the futile search over three continents for a permanent home, the restless daughter of the Soviet dictator and the century's most ruthless atheist has retreated behind the walls of a Roman Catholic convent.

Now aged 70, she has reportedly decided to live out her remaining years as a nun, in her words "atone for the sins of my father", who is blamed for the murder of an estimated 21 million Soviet citizens.

"I shall be 70 when I take the veil," she wrote. "Finally, I will be able to become a nun. I am sure that God has called me to be closer to Him at this particular time, for it is inside the convent's walls that I acquired the peace for which I have been longing all my life and the hope which I had lost."

If she has indeed found peace of mind it will be the end of a lifelong search to escape the haunting shadow cast by

her father's legacy. Although Svetlana does have some happy memories of her childhood, when Stalin appeared as a loving and devoted father, her life was jolted when she was aged six by the suicide of her mother, Nadezhda.

As Svetlana grew up, so the truth about her father's character emerged, most shockingly when she was a teenager and he sent her first love to the camps. Passionate and unpredictable, she married twice in quick succession and had two children before she caused an international incident by travelling to India in 1967 on a two-week visit and applied to immigrate.

Although India feared jeopardising its ties with the Soviet Union, a compromise was found when she was offered a new home in America. She caused an instant sensation by her anti-Soviet views at the height of the Cold War.

She settled down in Princeton, married an architect named Wesley Peters, and although she was aged 46 gave birth to her third child, Olga. In 1972 the marriage



As a child, Svetlana regarded Stalin as a loving and devoted father but when she grew up the truth about her father's real character emerged

collapsed and Svetlana went to live in Britain, where her daughter went to school.

However, when reforms got under way in the Soviet Union in the 1980s, Svetlana was drawn back to her homeland, where she spent a few unhappy years attempting to fit back

into life, first in Moscow and then in Georgia, her father's homeland.

Once again the experiment had failed, and this time she sent her daughter to school in England while she attempted to hide from the world in a remote log cabin in rural

Wisconsin. Eventually that, too, failed to live up to her expectations and she was last reported living penniless in an old people's hostel in west London.

This international nomad may now have found her peace, reportedly in a convent

in the Swiss town of Fribourg, where her identity and her past will not be allowed to interfere with her new calling. Nevertheless, it is still doubtful that the cloisters and strict routine of convent life will by themselves be able to dispel the spectre of her father, which

by her own admission rarely leaves her thoughts. Although she once told an interviewer that all she needed in life was to be left alone, it is not clear that solitude will suffice.

"It has been a heavy life," she once remarked. "Heavy to listen to, heavy to live."



Alliluyeva: 'a heavy life'

US warns Moscow 'meddlers' in Poland

FROM PATRICIA KOZA IN WARSAW

THE US Assistant Secretary of State, Richard Holbrooke, issued a veiled warning to Russia yesterday not to interfere in Poland's affairs.

Mr Holbrooke, on a visit to Poland, was commenting on reports of meddling by the Russian intelligence services in the recent Polish elections and the forthcoming Czech elections. Jozef Oleksy, the Prime Minister, resigned on January 26 over allegations that he was a spy for Moscow, a scandal which many speculate was engineered to discredit Poland in the eyes of Nato.

Yesterday President Kwasniewski swore in a Polish Cabinet that retains Wlodzimierz Kaczmarek, the Privatisation Minister, who was under attack from the junior coalition partner, the Peasant Party.

Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, the Prime Minister, leads a 21-member Cabinet that includes seven members of the Democratic Left Alliance, eight from the Peasant Party and six non-party appointments.

The Peasant Party had wanted Mr Kaczmarek dumped to slow down the sale of state assets. However, a clause in the agreement, signed before the swearing-in, obliges Mr Kaczmarek "not to conduct privatisation at random". Jerzy Jaskiernia, the Justice Minister, was among those to quit the Government.



Cimoszewicz leads new coalition Cabinet

Swiss in clash over Holocaust assets

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

JEWISH groups and the Swiss authorities engaged in a bitter clash yesterday over the amount of cash belonging to victims of the Holocaust which is allegedly being held in dormant bank accounts in Switzerland.

The row was sparked by a statement in Zurich by the Swiss Bankers Association, that a comprehensive survey had found the total in unclaimed assets from Holocaust victims and other foreign investors was estimated at \$32 million (£21 million), a figure much lower than that estimated by international Jewish experts.

The World Jewish Congress issued a stinging response, describing the statement as "a failure of moral responsibility to the victims of the Holocaust, the survivors and their families". Edgar Bronfman, the president of the congress, said: "Contrary to the undertakings given to us, the Swiss statement was made unilaterally and is unacceptable."

At a press conference in Zurich, Jean-Paul Chapuis, general secretary of the association, said of the investigation launched last September: "The rumours about huge assets hidden in Swiss banks belonging to Holocaust victims are totally unfounded."

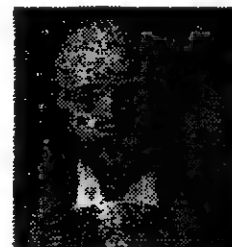
The Swiss estimate is paltry compared with claims by Jewish experts about the figures involved. The Israeli business daily *Globe* estimated that the amount involved was £43 billion. Priceless works of art and jewellery are also believed to be among the wartime legacy stashed away in safe-deposit boxes by the Nazis after their Jewish owners were killed.

"After 50 years we would have hoped for greater sensitivity on the part of the Swiss bankers and the Swiss Government and are waiting for a more appropriate response," Mr Bronfman said. "The Swiss bankers have not met the test of being transparent."



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Vincent Van Gogh, *Portrait of Alexander Reid*, Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum

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Cyprus tells British Army to cease fire

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE British Army has been asked to stop shelling one of Cyprus's most beautiful and unspoilt areas as the island's Government plans to declare it a national park.

The "bombardment" must end, Alecos Michaelides, the Foreign Minister, said. Cyprus was "discussing the issue at the highest level with Britain", he added.

The 1960 treaty that gave Cyprus its independence also gave Britain two sovereign bases covering 99 square miles and rights for live firing in several areas - including

the rugged Akamas peninsula on the west coast. The area, north of the tourist resort of Paphos, is one of the Mediterranean's last natural woodlands, while its pristine beaches are some of the few where green turtles breed.

The army insists its use of the peninsula, where it is entitled to practise 70 days a year, has saved the area from the developers' bulldozers. A British spokesman said even the grazing of goats was a "greater threat" to the peninsula than "carefully regulated military training".



ANATOLE KALETSKY 27

There is no crisis in the welfare state



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Do prisons work or are they holiday camps?



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The female Gazza playing for more than kicks

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 1996

Tunnel rail link plan in turmoil

Funding problems and inquiry delay contract award



Young: kept informed

FINAL negotiations over the £3 billion Channel Tunnel rail link contract were plunged into turmoil yesterday when auditors were sent in to investigate alleged financial irregularities at the company that designed it.

The announcement came as the Department of Transport and London & Continental Railways (LCR), its favoured bidder, were locked in talks over difficulties with funding arrangements.

With the contract due to be awarded within days, the investigation into Union Railways, a British Rail subsidiary, could not have been timed worse for the Government. Union Railways, which planned the 68-mile route, will be transferred to the successful bidder on April 1 after the contract has been signed.

Jim Butler, chairman of Union Railways, said that he had been told on Monday of "allegations of improper processes" within the company. "I have asked our auditors, Price Waterhouse, to conduct an investigation in these allegations and they have started this today," he said. "I have informed the Secretary of State for Transport, who has asked me to keep him abreast of the progress of the investigation."

The investigation centres on irregularities in the procurement of supplies such as stationery and printing materials and the sums involved are thought to be relatively small.

The announcement of the competition winner by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, is already a week overdue and is now unlikely to be made before the end of next week.

Government concerns over the wording of L&CR's bank agreements are thought to be behind the delay. It has asked the L&CR to provide tighter assurances from its backers that the funding will be forthcoming when the contract is signed.

Ministers are happy with the bid submitted by L&CR as it asks for a lower government grant, which is paid later. However, there are concerns, in the wake of the Eurotunnel fiasco, over the consortium's debt-financing and its ability to raise an estimated £1 billion in equity finance next year.

Both bids contain a mix of equity and debt finance. However, with the L&CR bid there is believed to be a larger portion of equity finance — up to one third of the total cost — or around £1 billion. The rest would constitute up to £1 billion of bank debt. European funds and government subsidy.

Eurotunnel plans to raise 75 per cent of its £2 billion private financing in the form of bank debt, with 25 per cent from a placing of shares with institutional investors.

The partners in L&CR are Richard Branson's Virgin Group, National Express, Ove Arup, Bechtel and SBC Warburg, which is also acting as financial adviser.

The Eurotunnel partners are Trafalgar House, NatWest, BICC, HSBC, Seaboard and Credit Lyonnais, advised by Kleinwort Benson.

Full funding would be required between March and September next year when the "Eurotunnel effect" is likely still to be blighting the market for Channel Tunnel projects.

The consortium has Citibank and UBS as its lead banks. Rabobank, the Dutch bank, was part of the banking group but pulled out quietly last summer. In spite of efforts last year to attract other banks, only Dresdner Bank and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, the Japanese bank, have agreed to act as supporting banks.

Deutsche Bank, which was backing two earlier bids, looked at the project last summer but did not sign up and L&CR has failed to persuade any of the major UK banks to sign up to the project.

Eurotunnel's 10 supporting banks are ABN Amro, Banque Indosuez, Bayerische Landesbank, CIBC, Commerzbank, Industrial Bank of Japan, Kreditbank, Mitsubishi Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland and Swiss Bank Corp.

Battle for Lloyds Chemists hots up with German bid

BY SARAH BAGNALL

GEHE of Germany and UniChem are set to join in a fierce bid battle for control of Lloyds Chemists after Gehe's decision yesterday to enter the fray with a £594.3 million counter offer.

The cash offer from Gehe, Europe's largest drugs wholesaler, tops UniChem's rival £530 million cash and share offer launched last month. The announcement sent shares in Lloyds Chemists racing up, reflecting the City's belief that UniChem will raise its offer.

Lloyds Chemists shares rose 29p to 467p — a new five-year high and above Gehe's offer of 450p a share. UniChem shares edged ahead 3p to 248p.

Allen Lloyd, founder and chairman of Lloyds Chemists, saw the value of his 7.5 per cent shareholding in the pharmacy group leap to about £44 million under Gehe's offer — £6 million more than under the terms of UniChem's offer.

UniChem's board urged Lloyds Chemists shareholders to sit tight and said it had "noted" Gehe's move and was "considering its response". Under UniChem's bid timetable it has until March 20 to revise its offer. The first closing date for the offer is next Wednesday.

City analysts said they thought UniChem could afford to lift its offer to about 480p a share, but any big rise in its offer would run the risk of undermining the value of its own share price.

Analysts said that they expected a bid battle for Lloyds Chemists, where Michael Ward is finance director, because neither Gehe nor UniChem would want to see the company "in the others' hands". In the space of two decades, Mr Lloyd built the company up from a single pharmacy into Britain's second largest pharmacy chain with 924 outlets. He diversified into drug wholesaling, a move that put pressure on rival pharmacy groups. UniChem and Lloyds Chemists both hold 30 per cent of the UK drugs wholesale market.

Gehe, which is majority-owned by Franz Haniel, a private company, has been rapidly expanding its drug wholesale business in recent years. It entered the UK market last year with the £400 million acquisition of AAH. In 1993, it won a contested bid for QCP, a French company, in which it paid £325 million for a 95 per cent stake.

Dieter Kammerer, chairman of Gehe, said: "Our offer is generous and compares very favourably with the UniChem offer. Our offer reflects the potential enhancement of Lloyds Chemists' value, which would be realised through a combination of Lloyds Chemists with AAH." Gehe's offer represents an 11.4 per cent premium to UniChem's offer for Lloyds Chemists ordinary shares based on Tuesday's share prices. The offer is pitched at a 54.6 per cent premium to the Lloyds Chemists share price just before UniChem launched its bid.

UniChem's existing offer is agreed and comprises 232p cash plus four UniChem shares for every three Lloyds Chemists shares with a partial cash alternative.

Michael Ward, left, with Allen Lloyd are the bid targets



Kammerer: generous offer

Tempest, page 26



Michael Ward, left, with Allen Lloyd are the bid targets

Frizzell Group sold to Liverpool Victoria

BY MARIANNE CURRIE

MARSH & McLENNAN, the world's largest insurance broker, has sold off Frizzell Group, its insurance unit, to Liverpool Victoria for £188 million — £81 million more than it paid for it three years ago.

Although the US group has invested £40 million since December 1992 in new technology and systems support, some analysts believe that Liverpool Victoria has paid too much.

Frizzell Group, which has its headquarters in Bournemouth, provides motor and household insurance, banking and independent financial advice.

The deal, which has been under negotiation for a couple of months, is expected to be completed by the middle of this year.

Liverpool Victoria said there was no overlap, since most of its business is door-to-door collections of premiums in the North of England and few of its customers had bank accounts.

But analysts questioned the wisdom of Liverpool Victoria trying to compete in an insurance market that was increasingly being dominated by direct insurers.

The mutual has 6.5 million policies on its books and assets of more than £3.5 billion. David Chessman, corporate strategy director, said the price was fair and sensible. He added: "In negotiating a price, we looked at the opportunities for growth which Frizzell would provide."

He said Liverpool Victoria was still interested in forming a joint venture, or making an acquisition or merger if the circumstances were right. There was, however, no question of demutualising. "We are committed to mutuality and we believe it is the best way forward."

Only since the beginning of the year have friendly societies been permitted to offer a banking service, and the mutual status of many building societies and friendly societies is under threat as they merge or are taken over.

M&M, which provides insurance and reinsurance services, has 25,000 employees worldwide and is quoted on both the London and New York stock markets. It has revenues from insurance of more than £1.8 billion per annum and has invested heavily overseas in the last 30 years.

Liverpool Victoria expects to widen Frizzell's distribution channels and add to its 500,000 motor and 200,000 household insurance customers using its existing customer base.

Roy Hurley, chief executive, said: "Frizzell and Liverpool Victoria are complementary businesses with similar customer values."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3725.1	(-21.4)
Yield	3.85%	
FT-SE All Share	1832.41	(-7.00)
Nikkei	20947.49	(+192.34)
Dow Jones	5458.72	(-2.55)
S&P Composite	845.34	(-0.35)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	110 1/2%	(110 1/2%)
Yield	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
6-mth Interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
3-mth Libor	10 1/8%	(10 1/8%)
STERLING		
New York	1.5378	(1.5420)
Frankfurt	1.5388	(1.5411)
Paris	1.5398	(1.5411)
Madrid	1.5408	(1.5411)
Rome	1.5418	(1.5411)
Brussels	1.5428	(1.5411)
Amsterdam	1.5438	(1.5411)
Geneva	1.5448	(1.5411)
Zurich	1.5458	(1.5411)
Basel	1.5468	(1.5411)
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Helsinki	1.6818	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.6828	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.6838	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.6848	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.6858	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.6868	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.6878	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.6888	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.6898	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.6908	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.6918	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.6928	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.6938	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.6948	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.6958	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.6968	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.6978	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.6988	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.6998	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7008	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7018	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7028	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7038	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7048	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7058	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7068	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7078	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7088	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7098	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7108	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7118	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7128	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7138	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7148	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7158	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7168	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7178	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7188	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7198	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7208	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7218	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7228	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7238	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7248	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7258	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7268	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7278	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7288	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7298	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7308	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7318	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7328	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7338	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7348	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7358	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7368	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7378	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7388	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7398	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7408	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7418	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7428	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7438	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7448	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7458	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7468	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7478	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7488	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7498	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7508	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7518	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7528	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7538	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7548	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7558	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7568	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7578	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7588	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7598	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7608	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7618	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7628	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7638	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7648	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7658	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7668	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7678	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7688	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7698	(1.5411)
Oslo	1.7708	(1.5411)
Stockholm	1.7718	(1.5411)
Copenhagen	1.7728	(1.5411)
Helsinki	1.7738	(1.5

Morgan Crucible continues expansion

Morgan Crucible, the ceramics to materials group, has paid £14.5 million for an 80 per cent interest in Magna Industrial Company of Hong Kong.

Morgan Crucible, which spent £35 million on three US businesses in March 1995, has an option to buy the remaining 20 per cent of Magna, which mainly supplies specialty lubricants and maintenance chemicals through a worldwide network of distributors.

Senior grows

Senior Engineering, the manufacturer of tubing and thermal engineering components, has acquired Jackson Industries, an American business, for £5.1 million, and Habia Tekniflor of Sweden for £2.6 million. Both acquisitions are involved in making Teflon hose products and will form part of Flexconics, a Senior subsidiary.

Bank jobs cut

Bankgesellschaft Berlin, Germany's sixth largest bank, plans to cut 1,900 of its 16,900 workforce by the end of 1996. The bank said it proposes to focus on direct banking, telephone banking and discount broking.

Dispute ends

Airtours, the holiday company, said a legal dispute with the Aspro family arising from its acquisition of Aspro holidays in 1993 has been resolved, and a sum of money has been paid to Airtours. The company said the terms of the settlement remain confidential.



Philip Bushill-Matthews, the managing director of Red Mills Snack Foods, at the company's Midlands plant. Continental Foods, which acquired Red Mills in 1994, yesterday reported that pre-tax profits had increased to £807,000 from £432,000 for the half year to October 31. The interim dividend is lifted to 1.15p a share from 1p

Packard Bell gets \$650m boost from NEC and Bull

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

PACKARD BELL, the fast growing American personal computer maker, is to mount a challenge for the world market after an injection of \$650 million in cash and businesses from its Japanese and European partners.

NEC, the Japanese combine that owns a fifth of Packard Bell, is to provide \$280 million of extra capital in exchange for preference shares. Groupe Bull, the state-controlled French computer champion, is to sell Zenith Data Systems, its US-based personal computer business, to Packard Bell, likewise for preference shares. Bull also owns a fifth of the US company and is in turn 17

per cent owned by NEC. The sale will help the commercial turnaround of Bull, after what the European Commission insisted should be the last injection of state aid.

The double deal is aimed at giving Packard Bell enough cash to integrate the technically strong but financially vulnerable Zenith and to expand outside America. It should also cement the existing three-way alliance in technology, manufacturing and distribution and accelerate development of multimedia products.

Benny Alagim, founder and chief executive, has made Packard Bell the fourth biggest personal computer maker.

In 1995, it supplied 3.1 million units and took 5.2 per cent of the world market. It ranks after Compaq Computer (10 per cent), IBM (8 per cent) and troubled Apple Computers (7.8 per cent), with NEC (self ranking fifth).

Packard Bell's share depends heavily on the slower growing US market, where it dominates retail sales of personal computers sold through shops and is second only to Compaq in overall sales.

Adding Zenith's \$1.3 billion will bring Packard Bell's annual sales to \$5.5 billion and allow it to leapfrog Compaq to become US market leader, with about 13 per cent. Mr

Alagim aims to have his company's shares quoted in America soon.

Packard Bell has low-cost manufacturing plants, including a French factory that makes frames for Bull. In future, NEC may share more Packard Bell production facilities outside Japan.

Adding Zenith, plus closer co-operation with NEC, should also enable it to widen and to upgrade its product range. Zenith has a new range of laptop computers selling into the French public sector market and the American corporate market.

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Singapore to join in talks on jet project

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SINGAPORE is to join a Chinese-led consortium in talks with British Aerospace and other European plane-makers about developing a 100-seat passenger jet.

Inclusion of Singapore Technologies Aerospace (ST Aero) in the \$2 billion project will reinforce the technical capabilities of the Asian partners as the Europeans appear set to beat Boeing of America in the beauty contest being conducted from Peking.

Boeing's launch of the 737-600 aircraft last year, targeted at the same market segment, and its inclusion of Japanese partners on the larger Boeing 777 programme appears to have undermined its credibility as a potential partner.

But with Fokker now in administration, the European consortium, comprising BAE, Aerospaziale of France, and Alenia of Italy is clear favourite to take a 20 per cent stake in a programme expected to sell 1,000 aircraft worth \$20 billion.

According to an ST Aero official quoted by Reuters, Aviation Industries of China (AVIC) and ST Aero "will work together to select a Western partner". The comment appears to undermine the role of Korean partners, whose demands for a second production line and a 35 per cent stake in the project have been cold-shouldered by the Chinese Government.

However, efforts to keep the Koreans involved, as a components supplier, will continue to reduce the prospect that they will build a rival aircraft.

Rolls-Royce has secured a \$150 million order for Trent 800 engines to power six Boeing 777 sub-jumbo jets ordered by Singapore Airlines Leasing, a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines.

US trade deficit falls to 18-month low

AMERICA'S deficit on goods and services fell sharply in November to its lowest level for more than 18 months, largely reflecting weaker imports as the economy slowed down last year and softness in the dollar which helped US exporters. The deficit plunged by 13.5 per cent to \$7.06 billion from a revised shortfall of \$8.16 billion in October, and compared with Wall Street expectations of a deficit of \$8.3 billion.

Exports rose 0.9 per cent in the month, while imports fell 0.7 per cent. The politically-sensitive deficit which has been for 18 months at \$4.13 billion in November, the lowest that it has been for more than two-and-a-half years. America's merchandise trade deficit, which excludes services, fell to \$12.5 billion from \$13.7 billion in October, while its surplus on services, such as travel and tourism, narrowed to \$5.4 billion from \$5.6 billion. Some economists expressed concern that the huge improvement in the trade performance may be another sign of the weakness of the domestic economy which is continuing to hit imports.

Govett counter claim

AMERICAN ENDEAVOUR, a US investment group, said that the Govett Group had filed an answer in the Royal Court of Jersey to its damages claim. The Govett Group, now owned by Allied Ireland Bank, also filed a \$450 million counter claim to the effect that American Endeavour's actions had cost the group the purchase of Duff and Phelps, an American broker firm, and a subsequent loss in value. The original claim accused Govett Group and Arthur Treger, its chairman, of fraud and mismanagement of American Endeavour funds.

German jobless rise

UNEMPLOYMENT in Germany is expected to rise above the four million mark, as well as the 10 per cent level, according to figures due to be published today but reported in the *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper yesterday. The newspaper said that, non-seasonally adjusted unemployment in Germany rose by 368,336 to a record 4.15 million in January. The report also said that the unemployment rate rose to 10.8 per cent from 9.9 per cent in December.

Angerstein savings

ANGERSTEIN Underwriting Trust, reporting its first financial results since acquiring Delian Lloyd's Investment Trust, said it expects savings of £500,000 to arise in the first year following the merger, increasing to £650,000 in subsequent years. Angerstein reported net revenue of £1.65 million after tax for the half-year to November 30, an increase of 12.1 per cent over the first half of the previous year. The net asset value has increased 7.9 per cent to 98.88p a share. There is an interim dividend of 1.1p a share, up from 0.9p.

Inquiry into Scania aid

THE European Commission has launched an inquiry into Fr24 million of state subsidies offered to Scania, the Swedish lorrymaker, as part of Fr50 million aid to build an assembly plant in Angers in north-west France. The EC said it had serious doubts about the use of the funds: in 1990 the Commission approved aid of Fr190 million to Scania, then called Saab-Scania. But Scania dropped the project after receiving Fr50 million in 1992. French authorities last month said Scania would return Fr26 million plus interest.

IT group's shares dive

SHARES in Learnmonth & Burchett Management Systems, the information technology group, slumped 174p from 323p after it told shareholders that it was continuing to incur losses because of a shortfall in revenue. Learnmonth, which lost £5.25 million before tax in the financial year to April 30, 1995, said that it would report a net loss in the three months to January 31. The company said that the shortfall in revenue was related primarily to business outside the US and training service revenues worldwide.

Headlam rights issue

HEADLAM GROUP, the distributor of floor coverings and fabrics, is raising £18.3 million through a rights issue to fund two acquisitions. The company is to buy Mercado Holdings, a UK distributor of carpets, for up to £11 million, and Malle Group, a Dutch carpets and soft furnishings business, for £9.7 million. Headlam is offering one new share for every four held at 185p each. Existing shares rose 8p to 220p. Headlam estimates that 1995 profits were not less than £7.1 million before tax, rising from £5.8 million in 1994.

TOURIST RATES

	1995	1994
Australia \$	5.14	5.28
Canada \$	16.88	16.48
Denmark Dk	46.71	45.41
France F	32.18	30.88
Germany Dm	0.782	0.707
Finland Mk	9.41	8.87
France F	7.58	6.97
Germany Dm	8.25	7.57
Italy Lira	370.00	371.00
Japan Yen	1.02	0.94
South Korea \$	8.210	8.050
Spain Ptas	252.00	227.00
Sweden Kron	177.10	181.10
Switzerland Sfr	1.02	0.94
Taiwan NT\$	2.289	2.240
Thailand Baht	2.43	2.21
UK £	1.00	1.00
USA \$	1.00	1.00

Prices for travel information bank notes only as supplied by Barclay's Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Prices as at close of trading yesterday.

Rivals show interest in Coal Investments

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

EFFORTS to rescue Coal Investments, the mining group apparently forced into administration by a cash-flow crisis, gathered pace yesterday.

John Talbot, Murdoch McKillop and Peter Tuck, administrators for Arthur Andersen received a large number of expressions of interest from rivals and potential buyers. RJB Mining, Britain's largest coal producer, said it was watching the situation, and expressed sympathy for CI's 1,500 miners and staff.

But industry sources point out that RJB, which bought all of the producing English

coalmines of state-owned British Coal in December 1994, declined to take on four of CI's six pits at that time.

Nor does RJB have any shortage of capacity: rather, it would benefit from the loss of a competitor in a market facing further falls in demand. The administrators are understood to be exploring whether it is possible to rescue part of Britain's second-largest mining group through a voluntary arrangement among creditors. That would probably involve a sale of some assets and a subsequent capital reconstruction through a debt-for-equity swap.

Goldsmiths forges link with NU

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

GOLDSMITHS GROUP, the jewellery retailer, has linked up with Norwich Union, the insurer, to provide replacement jewellery and watches to the company's claimants.

Norwich Union customers who have jewellery or watches stolen will be expected in most cases to find a replacement at Goldsmiths shops, which include the Walker & Hall stores.

Until now, Norwich Union has settled most claims with cash, leaving policyholders free to buy replacements wherever they chose.

Prudential results take new format

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

PRUDENTIAL, the UK's largest insurance company, will in future include details of short-term investment gains in assets held in the money markets when it reports half and year-end results, the company said yesterday.

Under a new European Union directive, which affects all EU insurers, two sets of performance figures must be reported. The first is operating profit, which has been used in previous results to show investment gains smoothed out over a five-year period. The second is pre-tax profit, which must include gains made either on paper or through selling stocks over a one-year period.

Jim Jack, group financial director, said payments to UK with-profit policyholders or shareholders are affected because the accounting changes are purely cosmetic.

The aim of the directive is to bring into line the accounts of all participating EU insurers so that a UK company's results are compared in the same way as those of a French or German company.

The Prudential, which yesterday released its 1994 half-year results and 1995 half-year results, said operating profit would most reliably reflect underlying performance.

Under the new system, total operating profit for 1994 was £693 million (£603 million under the old system), while pre-tax profit was £358 million (£603 million). A half-year 1995 operating profit of £304 million becomes £290 million, while pre-tax profit rises from £335 million to £499 million.

GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED			
Consolidated Income Statement			
	Year ended 31 Dec 1995	Year ended 31 Dec 1994	Year ended 31 Dec 1993
Revenue	13 859	11 794	11 794
Income from rent and sale of property	692	7 734	7 734
Surplus on realisation of investments and fixed assets	715	72	72
Interest received	1 185	1 092	1 092
Gold royalties and income from other sources	1 041	1 070	1 070
Income from investments	17 490	31 762	31 762
Expenditure	4 324	4 611	4 611
Administration	4 199	3 793	3 793
Interest paid	125	818	818
Profit before tax	13 166	17 151	17 151
Tax	4 036	4 136	4 136
Profit after tax	9 130	13 015	13 015
Unappropriated profit, brought forward	127	47	47
	9 257	13 062	13 062
Less	9 135	12 935	12 935
Dividends declared	6 135	6 135	6 135
Interim 20c (15c)	2 045	2 045	2 045
Final 40c (25c)	4 090	4 090	4 090
Transfer to reserves	3 000	6 880	6 880
Unappropriated profit carried forward	122	127	127
Earnings - per share - cents	89	127	127
Dividends - per share - cents	60	60	60
- times covered	1.5	2.1	2.1

DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 146 of 40 cents per share, in respect of the year ended 31 December 1995, has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 23 February 1996.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 13 March 1996 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 12 March 1996.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable from the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 24 February to 1 March 1996, inclusive.

London Office and Office of United Kingdom Registrar

Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited
Greenoak House
Francis Street, London SW1P 1DH

By order of the Board:
per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED

London Secretaries
S.J. Dunning
Secretary

7 February 1996

GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED			
Consolidated Balance Sheet			
	At 31 Dec 1995	At 31 Dec 1994	At 31 Dec 1993
Fixed assets	58 737	71 222	71 222
Investments	12 055	11 239	11 239
Land and township development	2 339	2 041	2 041
Net current assets/liabilities	1 718	(2 662)	(2 662)
Current assets	9 902	5 521	5 521
Cash	7 775	3 321	3 321
Other	2 127	2 200	2 200
Less current liabilities	8 184	8 183	8 183
Bank overdraft	8 184	8 183	8 183
Other	8 184	8 183	8 183
Share capital	84 819	81 830	81 830
Reserves	256	256	256
	84 197	81 202	81 202
Deferred liabilities and provisions	366	372	372
	84 819	81 830	81 830
Investments			
Leased - Market value	37 253	44 654	44 654
- Excess over book value	25 221	33 328	33 328
- Book value	12 032	11 226	11 226
Unlisted - Book value	3	3	3
Shares in issue unchanged at 10 224 350			
Net assets (at value) per share - cents	1 560	1 573	1 573

DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 98 of 35 cents per share, in respect of the year ended 31 December 1995, has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 23 February 1996.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 13 March 1996 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 12 March 1996.

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□ A new world power in computers □ Executives' role in a stakeholder society □ Barriers to the German telecoms market

The worm at Apple's core

□ GIL AMELIO, boss of struggling Apple Computers, could hardly have been greeted by worse news in his first week. Packard Bell, which has taken Apple's second spot in the American market for personal computers, is being mightily armed to assault faster-growing European and Far East markets too.

The three-way deal between Packard Bell, NEC, of Japan, and Bull, the state-promoted French computer champion, illustrates, in super, user-friendly colour graphics, the weaknesses of the pc pioneer. Beny Alagim's Packard Bell prospers because it is a low-cost manufacturer. Like Compaq, the market leader, it relies on the research overheads of component and software developers such as Intel and Microsoft.

Now it has cemented a powerful tri-continental alliance that should speed development of upmarket and multi-media products and broaden distribution. No matter that Bull is undoubtedly pleased to be shot of Zenith, part of new management's plan to wean France's spoilt child off state aid. It helps to build a stronger global competitor and lowers costs on new generation mass market products such as portables.

By contrast, Apple continues to saddle itself with much of its own costly software and hardware development. That is in part because it has not formed such strong strategic alliances, in turn because it does not want to give away its best secrets. When needy IBM tried an offer in 1994, Apple wanted more. Now it shares are barely two thirds of the price.

In America, which accounts for almost two fifths of the world market, growth is slowing, putting ever more pressure on costs and to share overheads. Industry analysts still expect 13 per cent growth this year, but most of that is replacement demand. Where computers are still spreading, the market is growing faster, by 70 per cent in Japan last year and a third in Zenith. Pressure on margins is still intense, as even Compaq found last year. Apple, which lost \$69 million in the usually most profitable Christmas quarter, won number two spot in Japan but suffered as much from

intense competition there as from sluggish sales at home and its long failure to crack the dominant corporate market.

The mass personal computer market is past the era of a thousand flowers blooming. The future rests with relatively few global firms. NEC/Packard Bell/Zenith will surely be one of them, together almost matching Compaq's 10 per cent of the world market. After Microsoft bridged the technical gap with Windows 95, Apple is in danger of becoming the Sony Betamax of the pc world unless it links or specialises. Mr Amelio needs all his good friends.

The limits to accountability

□ THERE was a time when being a company director was a doddle. Long lunches with the people who put the work your way and Friday afternoon on the golf course — you remember how it was, old boy.



In the 1980s, the culture switched to a 15-hour day, power breakfasts and the devil take the hindmost. It may have meant burn-out at 50, but again you knew where you were.

Now we are all squaring up to a stakeholder democracy even if no one knows what this entails. At the social level, it means having enough of a stake in society not to burn your surroundings down periodically out of sheer frustration at your economic impotence.

For the executive, it should involve an end to a business culture red in tooth and claw. New Labour insists that its

plans, ill-defined and inchoate though they may be, for a stakeholder culture will not require extensive legal changes to those Companies Acts that define the duties of directors.

An analysis out today from Bristol University claims, too, that no large-scale changes to corporate governance law will be necessary for UK firms to become "stakeholder companies". Professor John Parkinson, a legal academic at Bristol, says there is a "slackness of legal control over directors".

But this is a blessing, not a disadvantage. Any redefinition of directors' duties to take in interested parties other than shareholders, such as customers, suppliers, employees and the wider community, would not, he says, reduce accountability, because the system does not provide much accountability as it is. For directors and companies, there is no legal obligation to behave in a short-termist way.

It may be in the short-term interests of businesses to drive

their suppliers to the wall through sharp business practice, but, notwithstanding recent remarks by Michael Heseltine, it makes no long-term sense.

Will BT dial a better service?

□ BRITISH TELECOM and its new German partners, Viag and RWE, are taking on Deutsche Telekom in Europe's biggest telecommunications market. Their goal is to capture as many as 15 per cent of the residential and business customers after deregulation in 1998.

In spite of the muscle and talent that the trio can offer, this looks over-ambitious. BT need only to consider the experience of its home market. When Mercury arrived in 1984, the company intended building a network and offer a portfolio of services that would challenge BT's monopoly.

Mercury, of course, failed. BT, the nimble leviathan, has given up little more than 10 per cent of

the market in the vast majority of service areas. BT would be foolish to expect Deutsche Telekom to fight any less furiously. What is more, the BT-Viag-RWE consortium will emerge as only one of several upstart groups vying with Deutsche Telekom. In case anyone has forgotten, Cable and Wireless, which has infinitely more overseas experience than BT does, also has designs on Germany and has formed a broad partnership with Veba.

Mercury proved that competing on price alone is no recipe for success. In Germany, BT will not only have to be cheap, but must offer better and more innovative services. That won't be easy.

Confusion insured

□ THE Rigmorale forced on UK insurers by the EU Insurance Accounts Directive is a peculiarly pointless one even by the Eurocrats' standards. The Prudential will have to publish a set of figures that is supposedly standardised with their peers across Europe, showing wild fluctuations in profits as investments rise and fall in value. Insurance company accounts have never been that transparent; the new Euro-accounts will be opaque indeed.

Battle to revive O&R nears an end

By SARAH BAGNALL

THE long-running battle to resuscitate Owen & Robinson, the sports-wear retailer, is nearly over, with news of a £5.48 million capital injection that should see its shares relisted next month after an eight-month suspension.

If successful, O&R will be the first publicly quoted company to be saved from administration while its trading subsidiary is saved simultaneously from company voluntary arrangement. O&R's shares were suspended at 16p last July — a far cry from the 782p they commanded in May 1991.

The company also revealed a management shake-up involving the departure of five of six directors, and the appointment of Maurice Ewles as executive chairman, a post he held until 1992. Rodney East and Keith Miles have been appointed non-executive director and finance director respectively.

The £5.48 million is being raised by way of a placing and open offer at 10p a share. The new and existing shares are expected to start trading on March 4.

O&R revealed a loss of £4.2 million (£81,000 profit) in the six months to July 31.

BT alliance to put £1.5bn into German operation

By ERIC KROGUL

THE alliance formed yesterday by BT and its German industrial partners will invest about £1.5 billion to launch a competing service to Deutsche Telekom, the state telecommunications group which will lose its monopoly in 1998. BT said that the alliance's goal is to capture 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the German market.

BT formed the partnership with RWE, one of Germany's largest electricity, gas and water suppliers, and Viag, an industrial group, which both have telecoms arms.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, said: "We welcome the approach taken to regulation in Germany, which has provided the regulatory environment so that these three companies can plan how to tackle these markets."

Deutsche Telekom is scheduled to be privatised later this year and the entire German market, Europe's biggest, will be thrown open to competition a year later. Several groups, including Cable and Wireless and Veba, its partner, will be competing with BT's alliance for market share. BT has said it expects Deutsche Telekom's market share to decline to about 80 per cent by 2005.

BT, RWE and Viag will attack both the residential and business markets. BT will provide the marketing skills and much of the technology while RWE and Viag, whose activi-



Sir Iain Vallance, left, BT chairman, with Sir Peter Bonfield, the company's chief executive

ties give it access to about 80 per cent of the German population, will provide infrastructure and billing systems.

BT said it will try not to compete on price alone. It noted that Mercury Communications, its main rival in Britain, had made little progress by attempting to undercut BT. The ownership structure of the German alliance has not been determined yet, though each of the partners is expected to have a one-

third share. Separately, BT said it is unlikely to announce its French partner until the autumn. It had previously stated that a partner would be chosen by the end of last year. The delay suggests that BT is having trouble finding a suitable candidate in continental Europe's second largest telecoms market. France is the biggest hole in its European portfolio; alliances have already been formed in Italy and Spain.

Country Casuals advances

SHARES in Country Casuals, the high street clothing retailer, reached their highest level for more than a year after the company announced a 9 per cent growth in sales in the fourth quarter (Alasdair Murray writes).

The share price rose 4p to close at 154p. The company said it performed strongly in the weeks leading up to Christmas while maintaining margins. It added that, although its early January sales were disappointing, a pick-up in January resulted in a 6 per cent increase in sales on a like-for-like basis.

Country Casuals has struggled since its flotation at 130p in 1992. In October, John Shannon, former chairman, launched a £26 million bid for the company which failed. He has since sold his 18.8 per cent stake in the company for a profit of £5 million. *Tempus, page 26*

BAA raises £260m to aid expansion

By PAUL DURMAN

BAA, the company that runs seven UK airports including Heathrow and Gatwick, yesterday raised £260 million through an issue of convertible bonds.

The move puts BAA in a stronger position to bid for the Australian airports being privatised late this year. BAA also announced a 14 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £374 million for the nine months to December 31. Passenger numbers increased by 5.9 per cent to 73.4 million, a rise that has continued into January.

A BAA spokesman said the bond issue took advantage of cheap money in the convertible market. The bonds will pay interest at 5.75 per cent and can convert to ordinary shares at a price of 576p, nearly 18 per cent above yesterday's mid-market price of 488.5p.

While BAA awaits the outcome of the Heathrow Terminal 5 inquiry, it is pressing

ahead with international expansion. It has formed a consortium with the insurer Australian Mutual Provident and the New South Wales superannuation authority to buy one or more of Sydney, Perth, Melbourne or Brisbane airports, Australia's biggest. Stunned was again the fast-growing of BAA's airports. But Heathrow, up 2.6 per cent in January, has grown by 4.9 per cent over the last year. The airport handled 54.2 million passengers in the year to end January, out of a BAA total of 92.2 million. Heathrow's current maximum capacity is about 60 million.

For the nine months, BAA's income from traffic and airport charges was £380 million, up by 4.5 per cent from £364 million. Passenger spending generated net retail income of £133 million, a 10 per cent rise. Property income rose by 11.4 per cent to £157 million.

Tempus, page 26

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Prowling warns on profits

By PAUL DURMAN

THE weak housing market claimed another victim yesterday when Prowling, the South of England housebuilder, said that its profits had been hit by patchy demand and fierce price competition.

Prowling's shares fell 11p to 102p as its broker cut its profit forecast for the year from £9.5 million to £6 million.

Prowling made £9.6 million in the year to February 28, 1995. Terry Roydon, chief executive, blamed intense price pressure in November and December. He said: "Housing had almost become a commodity product. Quality was not being paid for. Buyers were simply getting the best deals that they could."

The company said it was reluctant to drive volumes at the expense of margins.

The poor sales at the end of the year nullified a good September and October. Mr Roydon said second-half sales would be a little above 600 homes, only slightly better than the first half. The average selling price would be about £87,000, a few thousand short of Prowling's target. Another factor was a higher second-half interest charge.

Mr Roydon said the market in the West Country was particularly tough. "We are not seeing the number of people retiring from the Home Counties that we used to," he said.

Steve Charnock, analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, expects the market's difficulties to continue, and more profit warnings. He said the dealer land bought in 1994 was only now showing through in results.

Tempus, page 26

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Smith & Nephew offers a touch of brightness

A WAVE of buying from the US enabled Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group, to provide one of the few bright features in an otherwise dull marketplace.

The shares ended 4p better at 189½p in heavy turnover that saw almost 11 million shares change hands. But brokers were quick to rule out the revival of bid speculation. They say this latest surge of institutional support is based on fundamentals alone.

It coincides with a change of heart by several leading brokers recently. UBS is believed to have started the ball rolling by turning positive on the shares. On Tuesday, it was the turn of ABN Amro Hoare Govett, which came out with a buy recommendation. It stretches the rise in the share price during the past week to 11p.

The rest of the equity market was showing signs of strain as an early mark-up quickly ran out of steam and share prices were left to their own devices. Growing political worries and further concern about the economic revival have begun to take their toll on sentiment.

In the event, the FT-SE 100 index chose to ignore another record-breaking run overnight on Wall Street — its ninth so far this year — to end 21.4 points down at 3,726.1. Total turnover was 705 million shares.

Gehe, the German pharmaceutical distributor, finally made its move and launched a counter-bid for Lloyds Chemists, up 25p at 467p. Gehe is offering 450p a share, valuing the chemist at £57.4 million. The offer from UniChem is worth 404p a share, or £50 million.

Dieter Kaufmann, chairman of Gehe, said the terms were generous and compared favourably with those of UniChem. City speculators are now anxious to see if UniChem will raise its initial offer above that of the German company. Brokers say it has scope to do so, offering up to 480p a share before the balance sheet is affected. UniChem responded to the move with a 3p rise to 248p.

A flurry of speculative buying lifted United News & Media, publisher of the *Daily Express*, *Daily Mirror* and *Daily Star*, 29p higher to 624p. The group, headed by Lord Stevens of Ludgate, has refused to confirm or deny claims that it is poised to



Shares in Lord Stevens's United News & Media rose

dispose of the Express titles. The story was circulating in the Square Mile last year, with Tony O'Reilly, the Irish financier and HJ Heinz chairman, named as a potential buyer along with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer. By the close of business more than 4 million shares had changed hands in a market where traders normally make a price

John Waddington, the packaging group, fell 5p to 197p. Wise Speke, the Newcastle-based broker, has placed 5.2 per cent of the company, which had been overhanging the market with various clients. The 5.4 million shares were placed at 190p. They are believed to have been the holding of Threadneedle Investment Managers.

In 25,000 at a time. Speculative buying was also good for Mirror Group, up 6p at 201p, and Pearson, 5p better at 689p.

A profits downgrade left GKN nursing a fall of 28p to 825p. Brokers are becoming worried about deteriorating conditions in the automotive market. Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, has slashed its profit forecast from £363

the likes of Parmare Gordon, the broker, slicing £3.5 million from its estimate of £9.5 million. Other brokers have settled on a final outcome of about £6 million.

BAA Group, the independent airport operator, failed to benefit from a sharp jump in quarterly figures, with the shares closing 3p lighter at 486p as investors switched out of the ordinary and into the

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8½ per cent 2017 rose £1½ to £107½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished ¼ better at £104½.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares lost ground in early trading, more because of a lack of buyers than aggressive selling. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 2.89 points to 5,456.72.

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convertible. Pre-tax profits in the first nine months of the year were up from £328 million to £374 million. Brokers appeared pleased with the near 6 per cent rise in passenger traffic during January.

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, dipped 3p to 214p in spite of securing two major contracts. It has been asked by Singapore Aircraft Leasing Enterprise to supply its new Trent engine to power six Boeing 777s in a deal worth £100 million. The group has also clinched a Canadian deal for its gas turbine industrial version of the Trent engine to supply electrical power to Ontario Hydro and process steam to a paper mill.

Headlam Group, the floor-coverings and fabrics distributor, raced up 8p to 220p on news that it plans to raise £18.3 million by way of a rights issue on the basis of one-for-four at a heavily discounted 185p. The money will be used to finance the acquisitions of Mercado, the carpets and floor-coverings distributor, and Malle Group, of The Netherlands. The total purchase price of both companies is £20.7 million.

Frost Group, the independent petrol retailer, advanced a further 15p to 138p, reflecting this week's decision by Mercury Asset Management to increase its holding in the company with the purchase of an extra 1.7 million shares. It takes its total holding to 15.4 per cent.

GILT EDGED: Prices in London climbed higher in spite of political concerns and the lack of anything firm emerging from the monthly meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

Brokers said that gilts recovered from a hesitant start encouraged by a technical rally among German bunds. In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt touched £109½ before ending ½ better at £109½.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8½ per cent 2017 rose £1½ to £107½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished ¼ better at £104½.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 5456.72 (+2.89) S&P Composite 665.94 (+0.39)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 2094.61 (+102.34)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 11388.59 (+2.78)

Amsterdam: EOX Index 304.81 (+2.08)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2274.7 (+4.0)

Frankfurt: DAX 2446.16 (+17.88)

Singapore: Straits 2991.60 (+1.78)

Brussels: General 988.50 (+1.59)

Paris: CAC-40 1983.39 (+5.18)

Zurich: SMI 735.40 (+0.50)

London: FT 30 3726.1 (+21.4)

FT 100 3726.1 (+21.4)

FT-SE 250 3726.1 (+21.4)

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TEMPUS

A German spoiler

THERE is a hint of panic in Gehe's competing bid for Lloyds Chemists. The German pharmaceutical wholesaler has plenty of reasons to want to own the 800-strong retail chain but they are tactical, not strategic. Even if Gehe fails, it will have achieved part of its objective by raising the cost of UniChem's investment.

Gehe's main interest is wholesaling, a slim-margin business in which it boasts a leading position in Germany and France and last year acquired a 30 per cent share in the UK. Buying AAH, the principal rival of UniChem, the Germans readily admit that AAH is currently a less efficient wholesaler than UniChem, making less margin and operating from 16 depots, compared with UniChem's 11. Gehe intends to shut down two AAH depots, but the rationalisation is taking time.

and that is key to Gehe's strategy in yesterday's bid.

The Germans are attempting to rubbish UniChem's claim that it will achieve most of a total cost-saving of £20 million in one year following the bid. UniChem may be optimistic, but Gehe's reckoning that integration will take three to four years seems unduly long to close down surplus depots.

Gehe is not desperate to own a large retailer. Its own retail chain is considerably smaller than UniChem's. But Gehe cannot afford to let its rival pick up big savings in bulk purchasing and logistics at low cost. The market rightly believes UniChem's estimate of savings is conservative and an increased offer looks imminent. But if Gehe forces the British company to issue more shares it may feel it has successfully spoiled the party.

Redland

REDLAND was

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Firth plays a Trump

MIKE FIRTH, the ebullient chairman of Yorkshire Food Group, who personally lost £100,000 on his maiden Yorkshire Business Conference at Harwood House last year, is hoping for better luck on May 17.

Even though last year's event included Dr Henry Kissinger, an astronaut, a general and the Black Dyke Mills Band, only 1,500 fee-payers came to sit on chairs that were laid out for 2,000 and the marquee had to be "shrunk". This year, tickets sales at £200 a head, including 100 taken by group auditor Coopers & Lybrand, are going so well that the marquee is having to be "stretched".

Firth, having been spurred by six British industrialists, has lined up Donald Trump, the US property entrepreneur, Albert Reynolds, the former Irish PM, Andrew Neil, the broadcaster, CNN's Larry King and Wild Swans author Jung Chang. The NatWest Jazz Band will also be there — to entertain at breakfast and lunch.

And how much will speakers be paid? "Can't break a confidence," says the man who loves to promote Yorkshire. "But Donald Trump would only be flown across the Atlantic on Concorde."

Right chemistry

CORPORATE love affairs don't last long these days. Germany's Ghehe group yesterday threatened to spoil the supposed love-match between UniChem and Lloyds Chemist, which had earlier agreed a deal with its own bid. The first closing date of UniChem's bid is Wednesday — St Valentine's Day.

Happy landing

This is the standard answer of the airline industry may seem a far cry from hernia operations, but a growing number of senior staff at PPF, the healthcare group, have been schooled in the British Airways management style. PPF's chief executive Peter Owen is among the flock from BA, followed by Bob Chalkers, who flew in this week as managing director of the healthcare division. Denis Walker, Brenda King, and Jonathan Russell were also once part of BA's big family.

The early bird

TO MAKE sure that the first set of results of the recently unified RTZ and CRA mining groups are given to the stock markets in Australia and London simultaneously on March 7, RTZ-CRA's announcement will be made at 2pm Melbourne time — 3am London time. Set your alarm clocks, chaps.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Public spending is a matter for the public to decide

As long as voters are content, there is no crisis in the welfare state

Everybody seems to agree that reducing government spending is one of the great political challenges of our time. And by everyone I do not just mean members of the Major Government, who have suddenly found a rare area of consensus on this point. After spending the past week "brainstorming" with hundreds of businessmen and politicians at the World Economic Forum in Davos, I am struck by the remarkable agreement among the global good and the great on this one point.

Yet, the most fundamental question about public spending is rarely asked and never properly answered. How much should the state spend? And how do we even approach an answer? Arbitrary figures, such as 40 per cent of GDP, or 35 per cent, or whatever we happened to spend ten years ago, have neither political resonance nor economic rationale.

What about international comparisons? Surely in a global market no country can afford to spend much more than its competitors on welfare if it is to keep down its costs and keep its citizens in jobs. European countries cannot allow their governments to spend an average of 53 per cent of GDP when the American Government spends only 37 per cent and the Japanese only 35 per cent. The taxes required to pay for such high levels of public spending inevitably boost costs in Europe and make it impossible for European companies to sell their wares against competitors from countries which are less highly taxed.

This is the standard answer from European businessmen and politicians when they are asked why it is necessary to cut welfare. You will not be surprised to learn, therefore, that it makes no sense at all from an economic point of view.

A country's level of taxes and public spending is not a key influence on its ability to compete in world markets. If it were, then America would have run a huge and growing trade surplus throughout the Reagan period, while Germany would by now have a foreign debt of more than \$1 trillion.

The reality, of course, is exactly the other way round. A country can choose to spend whatever it wants on government programmes and still maintain both full employment and a balance in its trade with the world. The only proviso (admittedly a big one in Europe these days) is that the country must have an independent monetary policy and a floating exchange rate.

Britain could, if it wished, devote 60 or even 70 per cent of GDP to state spending (like The Netherlands and Swe-

den). Even if the taxes which paid for this spending were loaded straight on to labour costs, British companies could still remain competitive in world markets; the pound would simply have to fall far enough to offset the extra burden on British costs — and given the attitude of currency markets to high-spending governments such a fall would be quite easy to secure. The drawback of such a policy would be that British living standards — and especially our capacity to buy foreign goods — would fall with sterling. In the end, a country which spent most of its income on bureaucrats and destroyed incentives with excessive taxes, might end up as poor as Albania. But that would be because it had wasted resources and destroyed incentives, not because of competition from the rest of the world.

Thus the fundamental questions that have to be answered in assessing the size of the public sector have nothing to do with global competition: they are about the effects of taxes and public spending on efficiency, incentives and productive investment within a national economy. There can be little doubt that very high tax levels — say, for the sake of argument, 50 per cent plus — are likely to damage incentives, efficiency and investment. But when it comes to distinguishing between lower tax and spending levels — say between 35 per cent and 45 per cent — the answer is less clear.

A difference in the structure of the tax system can easily have a bigger impact on incentives than a difference in the overall tax level. A big shift in the tax burden from incomes and employment on to consumption, for example, could do far more to increase investment and work incentives

than a cut in the overall burden of tax. Comparing Germany with America again shows this is more than a theoretical quibble. Germany has consistently had a much higher tax burden than America, yet Germany saves and invests far more than America.

If Europe's structural unemployment is related to exceptionally high employment taxes then perhaps the first priority for governments should not be to cut the overall tax burden — a task which will take years to achieve — but to shift the burden from social security taxes to taxes on consumption or incomes. The trouble with this policy, of course, is that income and consumption taxes are unpopular with voters, while social security taxes are less "visible" and easier to disguise as "contributions" which will pay for later benefits from the welfare state.

This brings me to the spending side of the ledger. While it is true that total public spending is much higher in continental Europe than in America, Japan and even Britain, this does not necessarily mean that European governments waste more of their national income on employing bureaucrats or that their meddling makes European businesses less efficient.

Governments have many ways of interfering with business decisions even when they do not spend money or raise taxes. Is the regulation of business and finance really more onerous in Italy than in the US? And is Japan really the least regulated of the major industrial countries? Is it obvious that relatively transparent forms of government influence such as taxes and subsidies are more damaging to efficiency than Japanese-style administrative guidance, not to mention the corruption

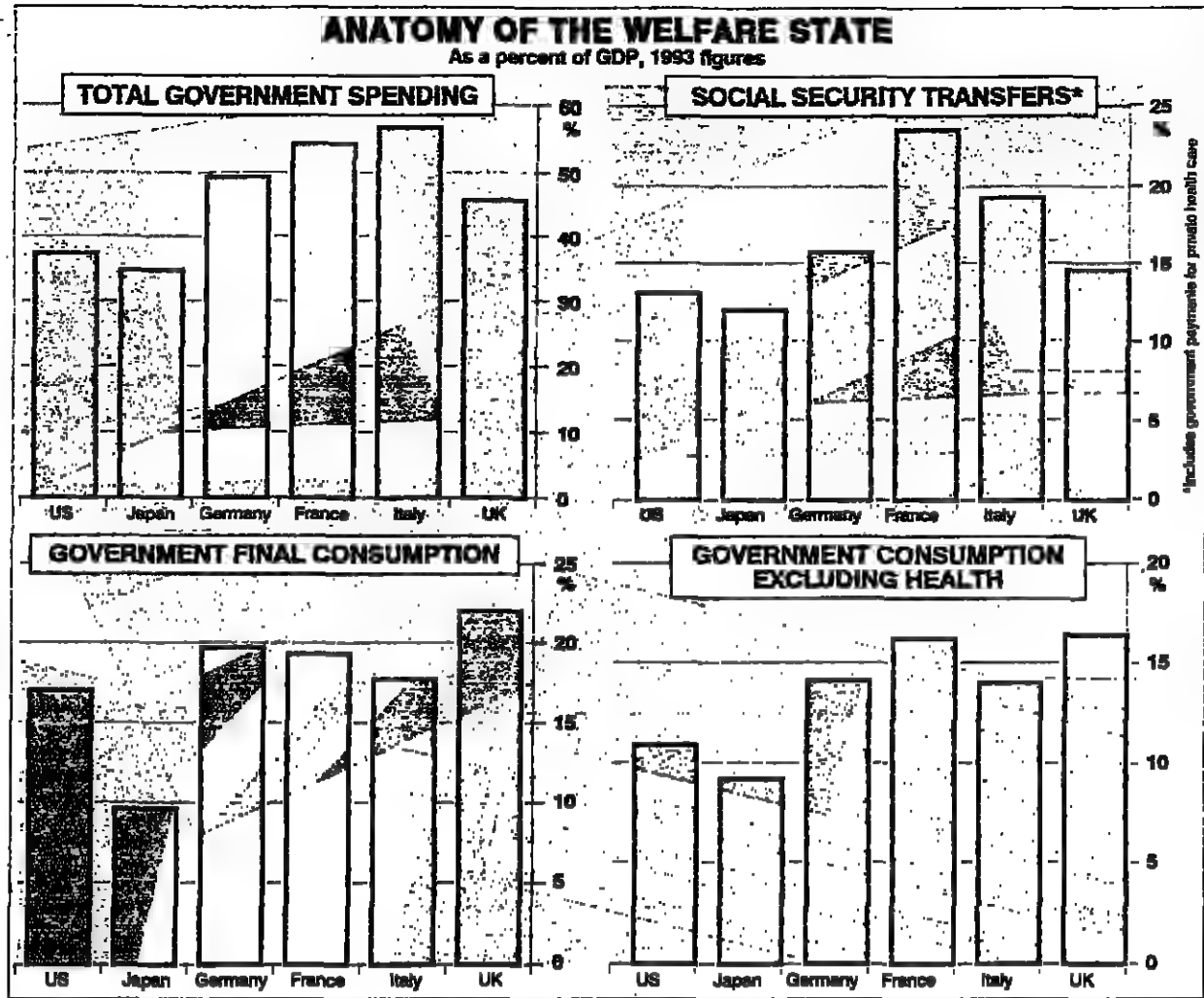
and coercion in many smaller Asian countries?

As the charts show, the main reason why public spending is so high in continental Europe is the level of social security spending. But these are not resources used up by government — they are transfers from one part of the private sector to another. For government to transfer such large sums of money may well reduce incentives, but that will depend on the structure of incentives throughout the whole economy, not just on the crude volume of money that goes through government accounts.

For example, social security transfers are much higher in continental countries than they are in Britain, mainly because European pensions are paid through the government. Instead of private pension funds, it is often claimed in Britain that funded pension systems are better because they encourage private savings and investment. Yet, in reality, the level of total private savings and investment is much lower in Britain than in Italy, Germany or France. How can we be so sure, therefore, that the continental countries have suffered from their high social security spending and the absence of private pensions?

Another factor boosting social transfers in continental countries (as well as in America) is the system of health financing. Outside Britain, most of the medical care is provided by the private sector. Government insurance reimbursements then count as social transfers. In Britain, by contrast, doctors and nurses are government employees — and therefore health spending counts as "government consumption". This is one reason government consumption is actually higher in post-Thatcherite free-market Britain than it is in such "corporate states" as Germany, Italy or France (see bottom left chart). As the last right chart shows, however, Britain remains a high public spender even after health is taken out. The fact is that Britain spends far more of its income on defence and policing than most countries — and a slightly higher proportion on education than Germany or France.

To summarise, the real facts behind the global "crisis" of public spending are ambiguous and confusing, to put it mildly. Neither economic theory nor international experience offers any reliable rules of thumb to tell governments how much they can afford to spend and tax. Within very broad limits, each country can tax and spend as much as it wants — there is no automatic mechanism in the global competition to punish those who spend too much. In the end, it is up to each country's voters to decide what public services they want and are prepared to pay for.



An unsung tale of success for the Treasury

Despite the Jeremiahs, clamping public pay has worked, says Philip Bassett

When the Government announces today its decisions on the recommendations of the pay review bodies for 1.5 million employees in the public sector, Ministers expect ritual protests from knee-jerk union leaders. But behind such well-rehearsed chest-beating from both sides, lies a largely unsung success story for the Government, which may have considerable implications for the current pay round, and for public-sector pay if Labour is elected.

Today's pay review bodies are expected to recommend increases around 4 per cent for teachers, nurses, doctors, dentists, judges, senior civil servants, and other employees in the public sector whose pay is determined by an independent sifting of evidence rather than collective bargaining.

Though today's awards cover only about a quarter of employees in the public sector, many other public-sector settlements this year will be influenced by the Government's decisions.

Four years ago, when the Treasury suddenly announced a clamp on public-sector pay, the Jeremiah chorus was all but overwhelming — the experience of such policies was that they break down after two or three years. But, as a new report today by the Independent pay analysts Incomes Data Services shows — though IDS does not draw out these implications — the policy adopted, not without considerable risk, has, within its terms, been a wholesale success.

Firstly, payroll costs — the basis of the restriction on pay — have been kept low, with increasingly difficult freezes on 1993-94 payroll levels maintained on the basis of efficiency and manpower cost savings. Within that, settlement ranges have been tight up to 1.5 per cent in the first year, and 2 to 3 per cent in the following two years — if anything, a little below private-sector deals.

While that is satisfactory to Ministers in both payroll and settlement terms, it has been satisfactory also for many employees covered by the restriction, who have been able to rack up quite large increases through improved performance, and

yet stay within its terms. With that kind of reality as a counter to the initial opposition of some union leaders, the smarter ones quietly got on with negotiating the deals that the paybill freeze presented — unsurprisingly, perhaps, public-sector pay rapidly became the dog that did not bark. Treasury Ministers and officials were deeply satisfied with a policy that seemed to succeed on all accounts, and had the added benefit of making some union leaders look silly.

While the looming election might increase the temptation — as IDS suggests today — for Ministers to relax the policy to improve the "feel-good" factor, the implications of such patterns of increases may be greater for any future Labour government.

Look for a policy on pay in the public sector in old or new Labour, and what you find is a hole. For an issue so sensitive that it brought down the last Labour Government, this is odd. The Government charges that whatever its policy takes — the "stakeholder" economy being the latest formulation — Labour will have to reim-

burse its union paymasters if it gets into government. For their part, many public-sector union leaders do have high expectations on pay, either believing or hoping that Labour will see their members right. Significantly, their claims of unsolved pay-comparability problems, with the underlying threat of strikes, float away if Labour is not elected. This suggests that the much-vaunted problem of pay in the public sector may be one of politics not pay.

Despite what looks like a policy hole, Labour may not need to do anything material about public-sector pay — though a future Labour government may have to face down some public-sector, and especially town-hall, militants, who may try to use pay as a lever to activate their opposition to Tony Blair's leadership.

What this means is that, in spite of any sound and fury there may be today, neither the Government nor Labour may have to see public-sector pay as much of a problem any longer.

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MARIANNE CURPHEY

Open skies back on the horizon

Four months after talks on liberalising air routes between Britain and the US broke down, the Americans have hinted that they are keen to restart them. As US transportation officials prepare for discussions with Germany later this month on an "open skies" air pact, the spotlight has fallen once again on Britain's transatlantic relations.

After Britain, Germany is the largest market for US airlines in Europe and is the first large European nation to move to a free-market aviation pact with the US. In a thinly veiled statement last Friday, US officials said they hoped an "open skies" accord with smaller nations would force larger ones to ease their restrictions on foreign carriers.

The central issue is US carriers' access to Heathrow, the second-busiest airport in the world, after Chicago, and the busiest international air hub. Discussions, which have dragged on for four years, ended in October in Washington with recriminations on both sides.

The US accused Britain of protecting British Airways' premier position at Heathrow, while the British were angry at being denied access to US domestic routes, which account for more than half of all flights worldwide. BA has almost 40 per cent of total take-off and landing slots at Heathrow and carries



Stephen Wolf, the new chairman of USAir, is expected to cut costs

almost half of all passengers passing through the airport.

Feelings run high on both sides. "Restarting talks depends on whether the Americans are still determined to protect their domestic market," one industry source on the British side said. "UK airlines want to be able to fly to the east coast, and then set up routes within the US, but the Americans are reluctant to go along with that. The talks broke up because the US airlines

could not stop squabbling amongst themselves."

The Department of Transport's official line is that "no date has been set" for full negotiations, although low-level talks are believed to have continued since last autumn.

However, the Americans expect an agreement within weeks between the German transport and foreign ministries and the US transportation department. Also on the Americans' shopping

list is the liberalisation of services between the US and France, Italy and Spain. BA which does a lot of business in Germany, will be watching events closely.

"A US-German deal could be just what is needed to kick-start Whitehall into resuming talks," one American source said. "Seeing an open skies agreement on major European cross-border routes will certainly cause the British Government some discomfort."

The British Government argues that Heathrow is so congested that there are few new arrival and departure slots even for UK airlines. Terminal Five, should it go ahead, would do little to alleviate the problem, with only a small increase likely in the number of flights.

Analysts, however, point to BA's relationship with USAir as a possible catalyst for further talks. (BA has had a 24.6 per cent stake in USAir since 1993.) Last year, USAir announced it was considering deals with other American carriers. USAir has a new chairman, Stephen Wolf, famed for cutting costs at United Airlines and expected to exact a similar turnaround at USAir. Should USAir's fortunes improve, BA may be encouraged to seek a three-way alliance, drawing in a larger US carrier.

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Losses across the board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY

Losses across the board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
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BREWERIES, PUBS & REST							
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ENGINEERING, VEHICLES							
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MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
LONGS (over 15 years)							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
UNDATED							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
INDEX-LINKED							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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SHORTS (under 5 years)							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
LONGS (over 15 years)							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
UNDATED							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
INDEX-LINKED							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100



■ FILM 1

Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic novel, *A Little Princess*, is updated into a magical movie



■ FILM 2

In the overblown *Clockers* Spike Lee roams the mean streets in search of an anti-drug message



■ FILM 3

Robert Rodriguez's *Desperado* proves to be a chic bloodbath led by the fast-rising Antonio Banderas



■ FILM 4

Keanu Reeves flounders into cyberspace for a 21st-century mistake called *Johnny Mnemonic*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown hails the unlikely success of an inexperienced director and an old-fashioned children's story

This princess of hearts has grace in spades

A Little Princess really has no right to be so good. The director, Alfonso Cuarón, is a Mexican whose only previous cinema movie was *Love in the Time of Hysteria*, a sex comedy with an AIDS background. Scouring the cast list for stars, you find Eleanor Bron plus a heap of nobodies. The story it tells, updated from Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel, was good enough for Mary Pickford in 1917 and Shirley Temple in 1939; but this is 1996, and we don't take to spoilt, self-assured little girls with fancy white coats and frilly hats. Shouldn't this film make the stomach heave?

No. A miracle has occurred and a minor masterpiece is born, right from the moment when Captain Crewe tells his young daughter Sara that she "always will be my little princess" and the two dance on ship deck beneath twinkling lights. Burnett set her story in Victorian London; but here it is 1914, and Sara is en route from a luxurious life in India to a boarding school in New York, where she seems like someone from another planet. As father leaves for the First World War, headmistress Miss Minchin (Eleanor Bron) remarks what a pleasure it will be to take charge of so charming a girl.

But behind Minchin's smile lies a battle-axe who bans all make-believe after Sara disrupts the school's dull calm by spinning stories of a fiction myth. Then, when news suggests Captain Crewe is no more (along with his money), the prize pupil is stripped of all splendour to join the drudge Becky, a black girl, in her dingy quarters in a Gothic tower. Minchin reckons, however, without the power of the imagination; and the same power that sustains Sara keeps the film glowing with wit and splendour.

Displaying uncommon mastery of Hollywood resources, Cuarón weaves a path through three different worlds, conjured up on the studio sound stages and a backlot street exterior. The tales Sara tells from the legend of Ramayana come in eye-popping oranges, yellows and

A Little Princess
Warner West End
11, 91 mins
Marvelous adaptation of the children's book

Clockers

Empire 2, 18, 128 mins
Spike Lee says "Say no to drugs"

Desperado

Warner West End
18, 105 mins
El Mariachi again, but lightning does not strike twice

Johnny Mnemonic

Warner West End
15, 96 mins
Futuristic folly with Keanu Reeves

Rendez-vous in Paris

Renior, PG, 100 mins
Fresh air from Eric Rohmer

Loch Ness

Warner West End
PG, 100 mins
Too much Ted Danson, not enough monster

creamy whites. The school she spins them in is a menacing dark green. Then, with one strip of the editor's scissors, we visit in the trenches of the First World War, smoke looming, planes diving. Every visual mood is exaggerated, fit for a picture book; yet the artifice is never stifling.

The performances are pitched with equal care. Sara could easily appear an insufferable darling, but Liesel Matthews never slips into saccharine smiles. Bron's Minchin is no pantomime ogre, but a genuinely malevolent figure born of spite and repression, and Liam Cunningham lends gravity to the stock figure of the noble father fighting the Hun.

Richard LaGravenese and Elizabeth Chandler's script pays its dues to political correctness, with glancing treatments of oppression through sex and colour, but they never distort Burnett's plot. The only flaw lies with the composer

Patrick Doyle: a film so satisfying and replete with magic deserves something better than his banal score.

With Hollywood's other offerings we plunge back into the routine. Gunshots. Blood. Dead bodies. *Clockers* thrusts them in our faces in an opening collage of crime photographs from the New York sidewalks. Having begun his movie in hob-nailed boots, Spike Lee stomps for two more hours as Brooklyn kids get sucked into the spiral of drugs and crime while Harvey Keitel's homicide cop breathes down their necks.

"You are selling your own people death!" "You ain't nothing but a bunch of death-dealing scum!" every 15 minutes or so mothers and cops turn on their siren wail. One scene collides with the next like cars crashing. Behind the camera, Lee plays rough-textured images against smooth, scatters video game footage; anything to jolt our arm. Lee's social commitment may be exemplary, but his passion is no excuse for bad, ostentatious film-making.

The pity is that *Clockers* could have been different. It stems from a fat novel by Richard Price about life in the housing projects and the low-grade dealers who work round the clock. Martin Scorsese was originally to direct; in the event Cosmo called, although he stayed to produce. Even with Lee's film you can glimpse something better lurking inside. You note how the cops handle a corpse with the finesse of a butcher man-handling a chicken. You feel the peer pressure among the kids, for whom crack seems the gateway to success. But then Lee mounts his soapbox: the film thunders on, then limps to a weak conclusion.

There is even more violence in *Desperado*: after one bar-room apocalypse, the blood needs mopping from the floor. This film is Robert Rodriguez's reward for making a hit of his shoe-string lark *El Mariachi*: he gets to play with Columbia's millions and bags a fast-rising star, Antonio Banderas, for his lead.

The material is much the same. The *Mariachi* charac-

ter, a balladeer with a guitar case full of guns, tangles with drug barons and a lady of dubious loyalties. At first, Banderas's hair is swept back, Latin charm in full view. Then he becomes an unkempt, scowling demon, shooting ostensibly for revenge, although we never feel his moral superiority. People are killed for the sake of it (one corpse is Quentin Tarantino's); death is worth only a joke.

Rodriguez's black humour and cheeky approach to low-budget film-making made *El Mariachi* a beguiling affair. The capering looks much less attractive in plush surroundings which demand a degree of control this young maverick cannot offer. *Desperado* soon grows repetitive, and trades genuine excitement for a chic bloodbath.

Meanwhile, Keanu Reeves is having a problem. In *Johnny Mnemonic*, his information courier is carrying 320 gigabytes of data in a brain that can only cope with 160. If Johnny does not download soon, he could implode. He is also suffering from memory deprivation. He wants a life — or, as Reeves expresses it in a heartfelt cry,

"I want room service. I want my shirts laundered."

Laughing at this dreadful film is the audience's means of survival. Everything was geared for fashionable success: a story by William Gibson, the writer who thought up "cyberspace"; direction by Robert Longo, the American conceptual artist; and Reeves, newly popular after *Speed*. But the hands that saved a runaway bus are ill-suited to saving the planet from Nerve Attenuation Syndrome. For that you want some signs of emotion; you certainly want a better script and a director who gives actors guidance.

Longo, however, appears too wrapped up in technical gadgets to notice human beings. Not so Eric Rohmer, veteran of the French New Wave and 75 this year. Like most of his films, *Rendez-vous in Paris* flits along on the charms of young people talking, walking, flirting and manoeuvring through the streets and parks of Paris. He does not go in for post-production sheen: in some scenes you can hear the camera's motor whirring. Any artifice is reserved for his script, which presents three tales of love affairs spiced by chance meetings.

Do people really talk in Rohmerese, finding elegant words for all shades of emotions, seeking parallels in park statuary or a Picasso painting? Maybe not, but Rohmer's gift for coaxing natural performances from young actors makes us believe they do. The last segment, a hesitation walk between a painter, a Swedish visitor and a woman encountered at the Picasso museum, is especially crisp and delicious.

There are greater Rohmer films than this featherweight affair; but who else among current directors shows such directness, such sensitivity to people and places, such obliviousness to fashion?

The Loch Ness monster may be a boon to the tourist trade, but it appears to do film-makers no good. In 1934 *The Secret of the Loch* failed to charm. Now Loch Ness wastes its potential by chasing pretty scenery, acting quaint, and mooning over the personal problems of Ted Danson, the American zoologist sent to nail the myth with a sonar scan (see interview below). Joely Richardson provides romance; John Henderson, from British TV and commercials, directs. It is very dull, but harmless.

Something stirring beneath the surface

Darya Alberge talks to Ted Danson; environmental agitator, paparazzi-hater and sunny star of *Loch Ness*

The massive, unlit cigar that the actor Ted Danson was holding up was a misleading guide to his character. A cigar of that calibre, which everyone associates with caricatures of Hollywood producers, suggested a man who takes himself over-seriously. Far from it.

Danson finds so much of life tragic that he tries to laugh it up — "being goofy", as he puts it. Only the environment, for which he campaigns vigorously, is beyond a laughing matter for him. He exudes a confidence that thrives on charm rather than arrogance. Like many Americans, he can break down barriers within minutes and make you feel that you have known him for years.

His confidence was not surprising this week: as he sat in a

London hotel, the world's press was queuing to talk to him about himself and his role in the new film. *Loch Ness*. Danson, who says he is inspired by the comic genius of Alec Guinness and Peter Sellers, made his fame and fortune through *Cheers*, the television comedy that ran for 11 years, and for which he was rumoured to be paid £200,000 an episode.

Now he is appearing in the lead roles in two productions at the same time. Besides playing a scientist in *Loch Ness*, a gentle movie with a strong environmental message, he will be the one bunched by Lilliputians in *Gulliver's*

Travels, a series due to be screened by Channel 4 in the spring. The series has already been a huge hit in America. The broadcast, last weekend, of the £13 million production, with its state-of-the-art special effects and a line-up that reads like an A-Z of star actors, was watched by an astounding 50 million people. *Variety* enthused that there was "no weak link in the production", and *Newsweek* applauded the stars as "the film's special effects".

Danson says that getting away from Sam Malone, the warring bartender of *Cheers*, was not easy. His character was so believable

that he seemed interchangeable with the off-screen personality. Danson admits to having been surprised by the extent to which he was subsequently typecast, but jokes about audiences watching *Gulliver's Travels* and expecting to see "Tubes in Brooding-nag" — the lead where giants are as tall as steeples. (It, too, found myself watching *Loch Ness* expecting him to serve a drink or two in the scenes set in a bar.)

The gossip columns have played their part in maintaining his playboy image. Danson describes the frustration of being hounded by the paparazzi, of how they can take a picture of someone crinkling up their face to sneeze and then write a headline that suggests a completely different scenario. The latest technique in America, he says, is to entice celebrities into reacting, so creating a story. "I'm as peaceful as you can find, but I fantasise about ways of getting back at them." At the *Loch Ness* premiere in New York, which he attended with his wife and co-star, Mary McCormack, the cameramen enticed him to "kiss her" and "give us something worthwhile".

It was *Cheers* which enabled Danson to co-found American Oceans Company, through which he lobbies politicians and corporations on environmental issues. Initially, eight years ago, he funded it himself. He recalls how he wanted to use responsibly the "silly amounts" of money that



Ted Danson can laugh at most things, but mention the future of the planet and he becomes very serious

Cheers was paying him. He says it was "enough to cause concern, a little scary" to have so much money. Today, he stages fundraising events, appealing to the same corporations that "we used to beat up on".

Although *Loch Ness* has an environmental message, Danson's imagination was inspired by "the power of myth" within its script, the romance of believing in the monster's existence.

"We must all have something hopeful in life," he said. "We must all have something bigger than ourselves to believe in: the possibility that there is something magical beyond the everyday. I believe in anything and everything. I have no fear of being corned, even if proved wrong, as long as I have enjoyed the ride."

They may read like cute lines from a Hollywood script, but somehow Danson can get away with saying them.



Every week, young film fans discuss some of the new releases. The first panel comes from Scotland...

CLOCKERS

Louise Pollock, 18: Quite powerful, very realistic, very well acted in a documentary style. But it was overlong and I didn't care what happened.

Alan Muir, 21: I disagree. It was really punchy, it came right at you. It tried to cut through all the gangster stuff and show you what it is really like to live in the New York projects, where people deal drugs as a way of life and people are killed as a by-product of that. It showed reality.

Dawn Grant, 21: Not usually the sort of film I go to see, but I thought it was quite moving. I felt really sorry for Strike, the main character. Mekhi Phifer played him really strong.

Ross Cowan, 21: I don't think it glamorised violence. The characters acted cold because that's how they would act.

DESPERADO

Alan: I tell you, this film will knock your teeth out and bury

them in the garden. It's bullet-ripping, heart-thumping, explosive, it's just amazing. Banderas is cool, mean, moody, magnificent.

Dawn: I can sum it up in one word: garbage. Ross: *Desperado* takes black humour and shoots you in the face with it. It is unrealistic, but that's why I enjoyed it. Louise: It was gratuitously violent. There was blood everywhere, it was completely unbelievable — and I loved it. It was stylish, it was cool, quite like Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* but much funnier. Banderas was brilliant; he smouldered his way through with big sexy looks.

JOHNNY MNEMONIC

Dawn: It took me a long while to get into it, because the acting is so hammy. Keanu Reeves is a good actor as long as he keeps his mouth shut. Ross: It started off like *Star Wars* and I thought it was going to be really good. But Keanu's opening lines are dreadful, and from then it went steadily downhill.

Louise: I liked it. It was spectacular; the special effects were in your face. Fair enough, Keanu is wooden when he has to talk, but when he's running around he's great to look at. Alan: The guy's so wooden he could be sold as a cabinet. And the effects were rubbish: all the old *Blade Runner* stuff.

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CHOICE 1

Jonathan Harvey's new orchestral piece, *Hidden Voice*, is premiered

VENUE: Tonight at St John's, Smith Square



CHOICE 2

Maureen Lipman stars as *The Rivals* opens in Manchester

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Exchange

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 1

Lee Evans brings his 'Essex nerd' one-man show to the West End, but it's an acquired taste



THEATRE 2

Ayckbourn on auto-pilot: *Confusions* pulls together five playlets of moderate substance

LONDON

CEZANNE: London's art scene of the year opens today. Cézanne's genius is put forward in all its splendour, including 90 of his paintings and some 70 watercolours and drawings. If there can be a highlight in all this, it may be the bringing together of the two final versions of *Les Femmes d'Alger* from the National Gallery, London, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (0171-837 8000). Daily, 10am-5.50pm; entry to Cézanne by ticket only.

BYRONIA 21: Marilyn Stobbs and orchestra launch their spring series tonight with world premieres for Jonathan Harvey's *Hidden Voice* and Britten's *Suite No. 2*, EBS (premiere of public performance). Also featured are Schoenberg's *Piano Concerto No. 2* and Ravel's *Mother Goose*. Piers Lane is the soloist. St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-832 0611). Tonight, 7.30pm.

SWEET PANIC: Opening night for Stephen Patafol's theatre directing debut, his own play about the state of life in today's London. Sussie Flenners plays a troubled mother stalking a child psychologist (Harriet Wilder). Early booking is recommended. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Cinema, NW3 (0171-722 8301). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 4pm.

1983: First night of previews for Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Koz, playing the lead roles in Craig Raine's version of *Shogun*. An imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. Prince Marder (author of *Cherish*) is the director. Alameda, Alameda Street, N1 (0171-389 4400). Tonight-Fri 12.30pm, Sat, 4pm, Sun, 2pm.

THE CHAMBER ROOM: David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game, is in the season of Royal Court. Cressida.

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Musical Theatre — the much-loved rising star who already has the Russian *Minotaur* Orchestra to showcase his talents — conducts the City of Birmingham Orchestra tonight. Tchaikovsky's *Suite No. 1* and Rachmaninov's *Symphony No. 2*. Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm; Fri Sat, 7pm.

MANCHESTER: Maureen Lipman changes the spotlight in *The Rivals*. Tony Blair plays Sir Anthony Absolute. Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (0161-833 8833). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm and Sun, 2pm.

SOUTHAMPTON: William Shakespeare returns to defend his reputation before a literary PC. *Shakespeare in Love*. Playwright David Williamson's satire, hailed as one of the most outstanding contemporary Australian plays.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre according to his own rules

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

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LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of *Donna's* by Sean Mathias. Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (0161-833 8833). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm and Sun, 2pm.

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Nice lad, but too eager to please

Lee Evans begins his one-man show by strutting down the brightly lit stairs — traditional on such occasions — only to find that the landing at the bottom of the first flight is cardboard. Climbing up and out, he gets trapped, first behind a falling scrim, then behind the theatre curtain. No sooner has he fought his way out than the front-of-stage mikes keep falling and rising just as he is rising and falling, until he ends up on the floor, his head beneath one and his legs around the other.

The message, as he puts it at the close, is that he is "a fool, a flop, a failure", and the implicit promise is that he will mess up his Shaftesbury Avenue debut. In neither respect does he wholly disappoint us. Evans has his funny moments all right, but I found that only sporadically did he unlock his sense of humour and open up the bit that emits laughter. Actually, nothing afterwards amused me as much as an opening sequence that must have lasted all of four minutes.

What is he like? Imagine that the young Norman Wisdom, whom he uncannily resembles, has fallen in with a rough crowd in Dagenham or Basildon. A natural nerd, he ingratiates himself with his new friends by mugging, using the forward a lot and telling jokes that link and scramble along in an awful rush, as if he is afraid someone will get bored and hit him. Also, he seldom ventures far from Essex man's world: service stations, supermarkets, burger joints, pubs, floor centres with chairs screwed to the floor, so you can't throw them at the seductively grinning officials.

Some of his gags are undeniably promising. I liked the one about the

Lee Evans
Lyric

non-alcoholic lager-louts going out to break up fights and clean vomit from Chinese takeaways. Ditto the plea for bronze swimming certificates for the plucky sperm who don't quite make it to the egg, and the suggestion that you can avoid dropping your bread butter-side-up either by dropping it before you put on the butter or buttering the floor first.

But again and again a nice, surreal idea tapers away before he has extracted the most from it. Such generosity is, I suppose, better than endlessly squeezing a joke that tapers in the first place. Unfortunately, Evans does that, too. The episode in which he spins plates on poles with the help of a drag queen in a bathing suit is not pretend-incoherent, like some of his stuff, but authentically incomprehensible and bad.

Nevertheless, as he might say, maybe with a goofy gurgle of shrill, self-mocking laughter, I don't want to, you know, sort of, well, eeing badmouth him. Apart from anything else, he is a good mimic and an excellent mimic. With a bend of the head, a twist of the body, a cluster of oddly angled legs, he can become a butterfly, an OAP on skis, a man trying to look cool while walking on a pebbly beach, a wobbly diner in search of a wobbly table to eat at. Some members of the first-night audience clearly found him hilarious. One day, I suspect that I may too.

Benedict Nightingale

THE best of these five playlets, written by Alan Ayckbourn in 1974, is the one in which a long-suffering waiter (nicely played by Christopher Timothy) serves dinner to two discontented married couples and catches their rancorous conversation only when in their vicinity. When he moves out of earshot, the actors mouth their lines silently. On his return he, and we, pick up the next fragments of the warring rows, during which the husband at table A has just returned from a holiday with the young wife at table B.

The play is no more than this, but some typical restaurant behaviour is neatly caught in Gareth Tudor Price's production and Vincent Brimble shows that a menu can be funny when read with the vocal equivalent of a pair of tongs being used to remove something the cat has left on the rug.

The plays were written for a cast of three men and two women and links connect some of the plays, though this is unimportant. The weakest

Lee Evans brings his 'Essex nerd' one-man show to the West End, but it's an acquired taste



Wobbly comedian Lee Evans: a sweaty tangle of arms and legs and a repertoire that does not stray far from the interests of Essex men

No offence taken

Confusions
Richmond

of the group is set in a northern hotel, where a sales rep (Timothy again) vainly tries to persuade a girl to come to his room. I suppose the way the man denies his intentions in one sentence and less than slip out the next is neat, but the piece lacks surprise.

The scene-changes of Colin

Winshaw's sets are modestly ingenious, particularly the one where the marquee of a washed-out garden fête is carried aloft and leaves a municipal park in its place. Modestly ingenious just about describes the whole show: inoffensive, an arid, theatrical device put to play (except in the hotel) but nothing special.

In the opening play, for instance, the sales rep's abandoned wife (Joanne Myers, good in a wide range of roles)

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In the opening play, for instance, the sales rep's abandoned wife (Joanne Myers, good in a wide range of roles)

is so absorbed in keeping her unseemly children in order that she treats her neighbours as five-year-olds too. At the fête, to be opened by the civil but unbending councillor (Rula Lonsdale), the sound system starts working just as the gawky schoolteacher tells the pub-owner he has made her pregnant. Her confession is publicly announced across four acres of field. And yet her scoutmaster friend (Graeme Seed) is a cliché character, as is the vicar, hopping and skipping. This is Ayckbourn on autopilot.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Decline and fall in the Roman Empire

Ben Hur
Warehouse, Croydon

while being pretty petite, has small talent as an actress. Her Hur's show of machismo comes down to a vague swagger and a lot of nodding. When, no longer incognito, she falls for Caesar, her portrayal of a sexy lover is no less feeble. Finally, bereaved and

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ENTERTAINMENTS

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS: 0171 330 0000. CORAZON FLAMENCO. "A beautiful, sexy, sexy party in lower-Goth Flat West. Even 7.30, Sat 9.15, Sun 9.30."

OPERA & BALLET

COLUMBIA: 0171 535 0300 (City). ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. TON 7.30 THE MAGICAL FLUTE. TON 7.30 THE PEARL FISHERS.

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■ VISUAL ART

As the Tate opens its Cézanne show, *The Times* presents a daily painting by the master

■ MUSIC 1

The making of a virtuoso: the pianist Nikolai Demidenko reflects on the virtues of being different

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC 2

Jessye Norman turns Janáček's *Makropulos Case* into a star vehicle at the New York Met

■ SATURDAY

A debut at the age of 92: the extraordinary story of the conductor Ilya Musin

Richard Cork begins a short series to mark the major Cézanne retrospective at the Tate Gallery

Perspectives on a pioneer

I doubt if 1996 will produce a grander exhibition than the overwhelming Cézanne retrospective which opens today at the Tate, and which I reviewed in *The Times* when it was in Paris last October. For the first time in decades, the totality of his work is assembled in a loan show which, if anything, enlarges an already legendary reputation still further.

Cézanne was disgracefully underappreciated during his own lifetime. Well into middle age, he was regarded as a failure even by sympathetic writers. By the end of the 19th century, when he had only six years to live, an increasing number of critics and young artists had begun to recognise his greatness. But only after his death did Cézanne come to be regarded as the man who, more than any other painter from the Impressionist era, mapped out the territory for modern art to explore.

To celebrate the Tate exhibition, *The Times* is publishing a daily series devoted to exceptional paintings from the show. They are particular favourites of mine, and reveal different aspects of his achievement. But these five paintings cannot tell the whole story about a complex painter whose work underwent a startling change.

As a young man, Cézanne became notorious for the violence of his art. He painted rape and murder, heaping pigment onto canvases where the turbulent brushstrokes reinforced the strength of his volcanic feelings. They are often disturbing images, alarmingly uneven in quality. In the finest, though, Cézanne's passionate sense of attack is luminously powerful. And the same strength of feeling fuels his later work, even after he learnt how to curb his unbridled excess and discover, through observation of nature, how to impose classical order on everything he painted.



Startlingly modern: Cézanne's *Young Girl at the Piano* — Overture to *Tannhäuser*, c.1869, from the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg

My first choice comes from the momentous period when Cézanne rejected the wild and often morbid fantasies of his youthful work. At the age of 30, he at last discovered how to develop a more measured and contemplative approach. The pianist addresses herself to the keyboard with grave concentration. The whiteness of her dress, painted with extraordinary freedom and contrasted sharply with the piano's blackness, emphasises the devotion she gives to the music. Her composition seems

equally intent, bowing over some daring as she listens. Cézanne foreshadows his later direction by stripping the figure and her surroundings down to their essential forms. At the same time, he flattens the composition, so that the vigorously brushed stripes in the carpet seem to run up the surface of the canvas.

Everything emphasises the grandeur inherent in a domestic scene, even if the women seem confined within

the cluttered claustrophobia of their bourgeois interior.

Cézanne plays tricks with perspective, allowing the piano to shoot back into space but pushing the figure on the settee forwards. This pictorial unrest reaches its climax in the freely handled patterning on the chintz-covered armchair and above all in the surprisingly enlarged design of the wallpaper.

Here, in dancing arabesques which surely inspired Matisse, he seems to pay tribute to the inspiration of Wagner's music. The *Tannhäuser* overture was first played in Paris in 1860 and

quickly became admired as the acme of musical boldness. Baudelaire described it as "voluptuous and organic" and a friend of Cézanne predicted that *Young Girl at the Piano* "belongs to the future just as much as Wagner's music". He was right: the modernity of this painting still has the capacity to astound.

● Cézanne is at the Tate Gallery until April 22, sponsored by Ernst & Young. For advance booking, which is advised, telephone 0171-432 0000. ● Tomorrow, Richard Cork discusses Cézanne's *Still Life with Apples*, 1893-94.

Jinxed show finally lifts off with Jessye

OPERA

The *Makropulos Case*
Metropolitan Opera,
New York

A famous cartoon in *The New Yorker*, published 30 years ago when the house in Lincoln Center opened, showed a ghoul, misshapen figure skulking out of the old Met, hailing a taxi, and slipping into the back door of the new house to take up residence. If there is an evil phantom of the opera at the Met, he was certainly at work in recent weeks, as the company attempted to give a house premiere to Leos Janáček's *Makropulos Case*.

The first attempt was aborted ten minutes into the performance by the tragic death on stage of the tenor Richard Versalle, who was singing the small part of the law clerk Vitek. Versalle suffered a heart attack and fell from a 20ft ladder on to the stage moments after singing the line, "Too bad you can only live so long".

The second scheduled performance was scratched by the worst blizzard in New York in 50 years. The third try proved to be the proverbial charm. Once past the first scene (which was restaged for Versalle's replacement, Ronald Naldi, without ladder-climbing), there was an almost audible sigh of relief, and the performance got to the end of the piece without mishap.

The haunted mood of the evening was not inappropriate to Janáček's strange, absurdist opera, which has been given the most interesting production at the Met thus far this season. As conceived by producer Elijah Moshinsky, this *Makropulos* is a star vehicle for Jessye Norman as the ageless (almost) opera singer Emilia Marty.

Norman, it seems, has staked out a claim to the diva roles at the Met: three years ago she appeared in a new production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* (also produced by Moshinsky) as the Prima Donna. Much slimmer then, she exuded star quality without lapsing into the campy pose-strutting that has marred some of her previous appearances here. She sang with liquid, silvery warmth, soaring almost effortlessly through the high tessitura in her final monologue.

The sets, by debutant Anthony Ward (whose credits include *The Way of the World*, currently at the National The-

atre, and *Oliver!* at the Palladium), kept the eye focused on Norman. When the curtain rose, it revealed a billboard-size image of her face (which, in a thrilling *coup de théâtre*, went up in flames in the finale). In the second act, Norman was seated upon a massive sphinx — was Emilia Marty perhaps singing *Aida*? — where she received her suitors one by one.

She was generally well supported by the cast, particularly by Graham Clark as Albert Gregor, who sang with brilliant pliancy; Donald McIntyre brought an effective, Wotan-like gravity to the role of Kolenaty; Hakan Hagegard was a bit nondescript as Prus, sounding weak and sketchy in the lower register.

The Met orchestra was conducted by David Robertson, who has led this work at the Welsh National Opera. It was generally a coherent performance, but the strings at moments were uncharacteristically out of tune and a bit untidy; this orchestra, it seems, is never entirely happy except when James Levine is conducting.

JAMIE JAMES



Jessye Norman: star turn as Emilia Marty in Janáček's opera

Playing by his own rules

Barry Millington talks to the highly acclaimed Russian pianist Nikolai Demidenko

Talking to the Russian pianist Nikolai Demidenko is an exhilarating but disconcerting experience. You soon discover that Demidenko has no time for the usual platitudes. Expressing himself in clearly articulated English, he overturns expectations at every step.

The Russian system of musical education — now in disarray — has a reputation as something of a forcing school. Did he find himself pressurised at the Gnessin Music School in Moscow? "No, an awful lot of things to learn, but I wouldn't say it was terribly pressurised." At the Moscow Conservatoire he was fortunate to study with Dmitri Bashkirev. "I'm still convinced he's the best teacher in the world. He never told us how to

play the music at the level of details. He worked in more important directions. That's why no two pupils of his play the same."

Demidenko waxes lyrical about another Bashkirev protégé, the 24-year-old Arkady Volodos. "He is phenomenal. It is comparable with Rubinstein's 1904 performance in Moscow, with Horowitz's visit to Moscow, with the debut of the young Kissin, with Karl Böhm's conducting *Tristan und Isolde*. When that guy has his debut in London, rush there." In fact, we do not have to wait that long, because Sony has recently recorded a

Volodos recital disc for release later in the year.

Talking to Kissin, I had heard that Demidenko had helped to bring the 13-year-old prodigy to public attention in 1984, and I invited him to take his share of the credit. But no, refusing to play ball again, he tells me that he was just "one of the people" who were able to bring about Kissin's legendary debut (though it was Demidenko who persuaded the conductor Dmitri Kitarenko to hear him).

"At the first rehearsal for that performance, the orchestra started playing the Chopin E minor Concerto. Little boy, just turned 13, sitting there waiting, and they played the first tutti in an absolutely ordinary manner. Everything changed at the start of the piano part. From the first note, I've never before seen all the wind players watching what the pianist is doing."

Nowhere has Demidenko sought to avoid the obvious more than in his choice of



Demidenko: none of the usual platitudes

repertoire. In 1993 he gave a series of six recitals at the Wigmore Hall which explored an astonishing range of piano music, from the instrument's early period (C.P.E. Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart), through the riches of the 19th century (Liszt, Kalkbrenner) to the complexities of the 20th (Berg,

Gubaidulina). What was the thinking behind such an intrepid traversal of the repertoire? "I considered it a challenge. I just wanted to prove that I could do it."

But he is far from wedded to the idea of such live recordings. "To me, at least, live performance is one world, and recording is a completely different art. I'm much closer to the position of Glenn Gould, who claimed that musical recording doesn't have to be a snapshot of a moment; it has to have its own system behind it, rather like plastic surgery. It's not the music which happens in the concert hall; it's the music as I would like it to appear. Some phrases come from a different perspective, from a different pair of microphones. You can't move around in the hall during the recital. But you can move on the record and sometimes the results are very beautiful, so why not?"

The thought of major one-composer cycles does not excite him, though he has a double CD of Schubert's piano music on the way, from Hyperion, which is also recording Prokofiev piano concertos with him.

At his Barbican recital on

How to talk a great picture

THERE is a certain ironic appropriateness about putting contemporary art on the radio. And perhaps a certain sense of relief: this way, at least one does not have to look at it. But there are more positive reasons for welcoming *Private View*, a new Saturday lunchtime series on Radio 3.

Nicholas Ward-Jackson, an art dealer and curator, presents *Private View* and for the most part he is set on responding to the standard media attitude to such art as a model asleep in a tank and, yes, that severed cow of recent notoriety.

The central figure in part one of the series was Douglas Gordon, a Glaswegian and rising star of contemporary art who is ominously described as "out to unsettle

RADIO

his audience". He was certainly out to unsettle Ward-Jackson, who had to pursue Gordon by telephone halfway round Europe.

They finally met in Amsterdam, where Gordon was attending a football match. Gordon has a passion for the game and its curious subculture, and one of his works consisted of projecting the Millwall slogan "We are evil" on to the dome of the Serpentine Gallery in London.

Gordon is multimedia, as they say. He regards the telephone, for example, as an artistic medium. He is fond, apparently, of having messages delivered to diners in restaurants. One of these

runs: "You cannot hide your love forever."

What does this mean? Is it art? Ward-Jackson comes from a traditional art background and, if he is sceptical about the contemporary scene, he hides it well beneath an enthusiasm to discover just what is going on.

There are people — and you may count me in — who think that piles of bricks at the Tate could do with a set of wheels: that way they would more plainly state that we are being taken for a ride.

On the other hand it is quite an enjoyable ride. Artists like Gordon make us think and, merely by doing that, they qualify as assets in a bland modern world.

PETER BARNARD

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THE TIMES DILLONS LECTURE

Richard Leakey and the Sixth Extinction

THE FIVE mass extinctions of species on the planet were all natural disasters. Speaking at a Times/Dillons lecture on Monday, February 12, chaired by Richard Dawkins, Richard Leakey, the Kenyan politician and renowned palaeoanthropologist and conservationist, will warn us that we are heading for a sixth.

OUR capacity to exploit the world's resources beyond the point of natural renewal is leading us to the verge of a man-made catastrophe, he says. *Homo sapiens* could destroy entire species and trigger the sixth extinction. The lecture marks the publication of Dr Leakey's new book (with Roger Lewin), *The Sixth Extinction: Biodiversity and Its Survival* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99), and will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £10 (£7.50 concessions), which includes £3 off the price of Dr Leakey's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-580 7680, or by sending the coupon with your remittance to: Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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Nicholas Mosley is a novelist who seeks order in entropy and has the courage to grapple with the unknown, says Rachel Cusk

A holy apparition as a sign of the times

CHILDREN OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT

By Nicholas Mosley
Secker & Warburg, £15.99

Novels are so often about what the novelist knows that it comes as a surprise to read one that is about precisely the reverse. Where the writer can frequently be found standing at his own fishpond, paying out his line with greater or lesser elegance to reel this knowledge in, Nicholas Mosley wades out to sea with nothing but his bare hands in the hope of catching something new. Whether he succeeds or not is another question; but the profoundly experimental nature of his writing marks him out as one of our most adventurous and provocative voices.

Children of Darkness and Light is a curious but timely novel, as remarkable as it is often opaque, which attempts to address the subject of human entropy while seeking some occluded, necessary order within it. More specifically, it is about the problem of investigation and the difficulties too of inhabiting the tense, shifting border between what is known and what is not.

Harry is a journalist increasingly drawn to this border, the place

where in the act of observation reality is manufactured, whose desire to be the factotum rather than the author of truth has stripped him of agency. His fragmented, disordered consciousness is jeopardised still further by drink, and by an itinerant lifestyle which strains his already fragile marriage.

What appears at first to be incoherence, as we are borne along on the muddled stream of Harry's thoughts, is in fact a welter of unprocessed intelligence; the narrative of a mind reluctant to stamp experience with personal interpretation. As Harry's sense of himself dissolves, so his observations pro-

liferate: identity is here an obstruction, an interference without which things might happen as they were meant to and reality thus be ensured.

As he goes about his investigations, Harry's passivity becomes almost comic: "I had become imbued with the idea that unnecessary questions might divert the course of understanding or even of what would happen." What he is investigating is the story of a group of children in Cumbria who claim to have received a visitation from the Virgin Mary, and have subsequently decamped to the hills above their seaside village and set themselves up on their own.

Some of the children are from Bosnia, where a few years previously Harry covered a similar story: a story in which he interpreted the repetitiveness of the Virgin Mary's visits as an attempt to bore the human race into taking the initiative itself. "I said that the



Mosley: an adventurous voice

Virgin Mary must know that her instructions weren't working because they had been tried so often and had been ineffective; what she must really want was for

us, her children, to recognise this and grow up and start working things out on our own."

Once in Cumbria, Harry discovers that the apparition is not merely a metaphor, but an entire fiction written, in some sense, for him. His suspicion on arrival that he has been expected, that everybody knows who he is and what he represents, that a play is waiting to be enacted for which he is the necessary audience: all this suggests that by singling himself out as invisible, he has become visible, known; that rather than observing the story, he has caused it.

Rumours abound of radiation leaks from a local nuclear plant, of abuses of the children by Social Services; but the more Harry tries to confirm or dispel these rumours, the more facts refuse to perform. "Would it be possible," he wonders, "to devise an experiment at which one could be looking without exactly looking?"

Mosley cleverly withholds daylight until the darkness has become unbearable; for it is only when events have reached a pitch of mystification that one becomes conscious of interference from somewhere else. What looked like an enigma was in fact more of a trick. Harry, it is all at once clear, is not functioning properly, and is labouring beneath things which require disclosure. As he begins to reveal more of what happened to him in Bosnia, a spiritual and philosophical crisis of vast proportions unfolds. "I had wanted not so much to report on the horrors of war — many others were doing that — as to look for what might be at the back of this apparently so arbitrary fighting: at the way in which so many people seemed to feel just what fun war was."

In discovering that people have no real desire to make things better, no appetite for good, Harry finds a positive motivation to-

wards evil, decay, disorder, pollution — "people feeling at home if they land themselves in the shit". He comes to believe the only notion of order is to let things happen, to let them get worse. In the grip of this abdication of responsibility, he rescues a Bosnian child from an orphanage, setting up intolerable conflicts in himself: conflicts which lead him to the belief that if children are tormented enough by adults, they will eventually overthrow them. "And might they not have a chance of doing this especially in times of war... Might they not become, that is, like those bacteria that learn to survive under stress — that produce mutations necessary for survival in times of stress?"

Two extraordinary images of good and evil conclude a novel which, if it resolves few of them, raises many potent and pressing questions about our anoral landscape, and which, for its evocation of modern consciousness alone — traumatised and immobilised by information — is a fine achievement.

Yet built with stones of law

One can learn a great deal about a society by visiting its prisons. They show a great deal about values, beliefs and social attitudes. Through a series of learned but never dry essays *The Oxford History of the Prison* tells how this extraordinary institution developed from the early forced labour fortresses of ancient Egypt, like the one in Luxor, where Ptolemy confined Joseph (of the coat of many colours), to the violent human warehouses of today's big American cities.

It crosses continents to show the varied traditions, and what the State can do to its citizens under the aegis of a justice system is graphically described. Eight full-colour pages of prisoners' paintings show how creativity can blossom within the razor-wire and grey brick walls.

Prisons in North America and Europe, prisons for women, reformatories for juvenile delinquents, penal colonies in Australia, are all discussed. Punitive regimes, rehabilitative regimes, forced labour are described. What comes across is the dreary sameness of the prison experience. Whether it is Illinois or London, 1850 or 1950, the illustrations are the same: human beings lying close together in rows, usually filling every space at every level, the top row so near the ceiling they can barely raise their heads.

Material on the United States predominates, perhaps

Vivien Stern

THE OXFORD HISTORY OF THE PRISON

Edited by Norval Morris and David J. Rothman
OUP, £25

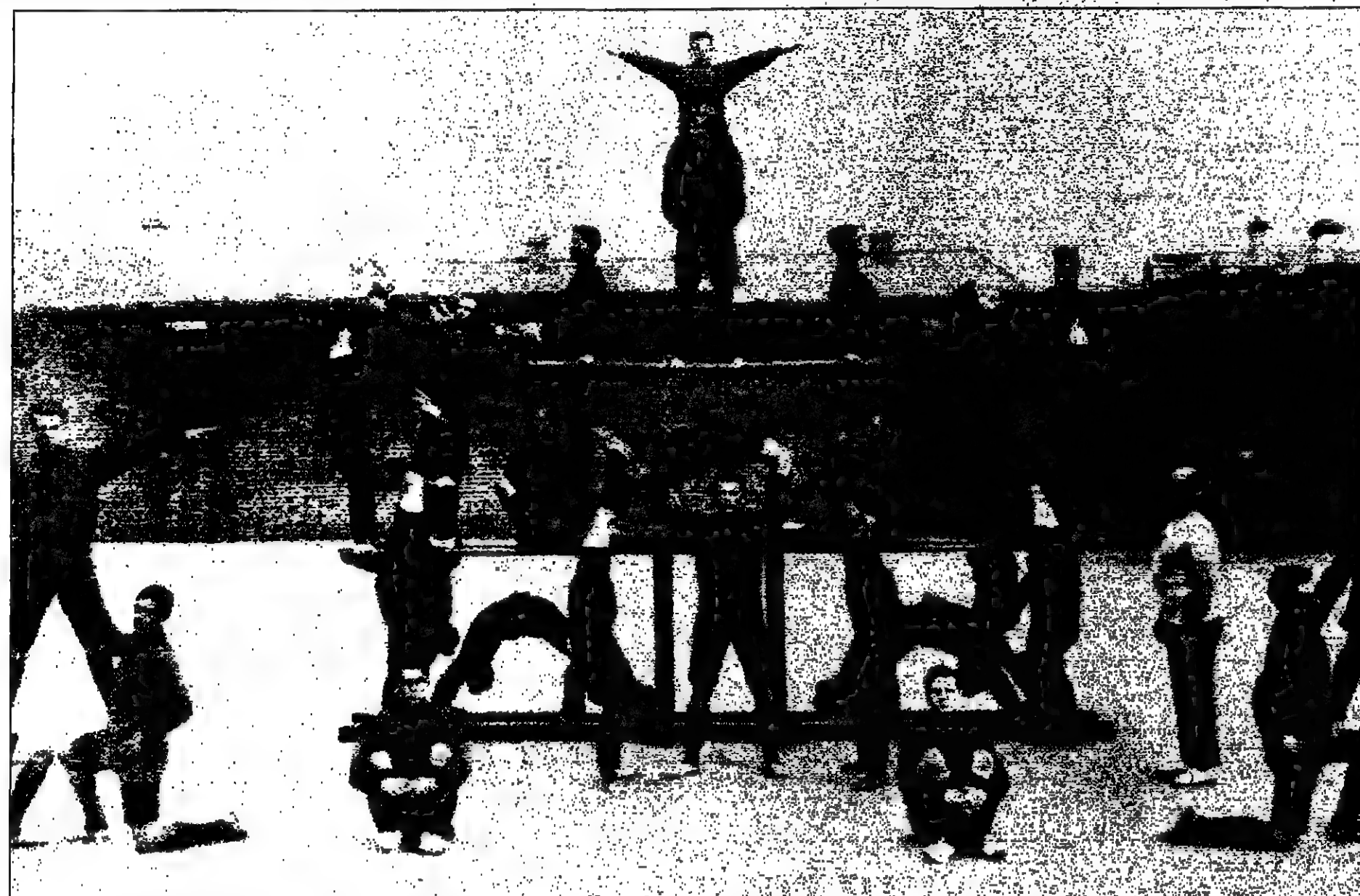
THE INVISIBLE CRYING TREE

By Tom Shannon and Christopher Morgan
Doubleday, £9.99

understandably. The modern prison is said to have been invented there in the 1820s, with competition between the systems in New York and Pennsylvania. In New York the prisoners slept in single cells, but worked and ate together although they were forbidden to communicate by word or glance. In Pennsylvania prisoners were in solitary confinement the whole time. The New York system won the day, because it was cheaper.

Now, nearly two centuries later, the United States is one of the world's greatest consumers of imprisonment, doubling its use between 1970 and 1980 and more than doubling it again between 1981 and 1995. One and a half million Americans are currently in prison. The chances of a young black man in America going to prison are greater than his chances of going on to higher education.

Britain, too, now seems set on a course of ever-increasing



A gymnastics display at a Borstal, c. 1920: in attempting to foster a sense of personal responsibility, Borsitals took public schools as their model (from *The Oxford History of the Prison*)

imprisonment. Yet, as all the contributors point out, as a method of crime control, prison does not work. So why do we keep on believing in it and demanding it be provided? The answer, according to one of the distinguished editors, Norval Morris, seems to be that imprisonment has become the "plaything of politics". So politicians build more prisons, using money that would otherwise go on schools and hospitals. This is "a sin against the future".

The breadth of history and wide-ranging theory set out in

the Oxford volume are richly complemented by another very worthwhile and moving book, *The Invisible Crying Tree*. Through the Prison Reform Trust a farmer, Christopher Morgan, became the penfriend of Tom Shannon, a life-sentence prisoner, and the book consists of their year-long exchange of letters.

The farmer writes of his family, combine harvesters, the common agricultural policy, the weather. The prisoner writes of brewing illicit alcohol, wrapping excrement in newspaper and throwing it out

of the window, drugs, stabbings, hunger strikes, being in the segregation unit listening to Mozart. It is a blast of reality for those who think prisons run according to rules and regulations. It should be required reading for people who still think prison is a holiday camp.

Both these books throw light on a major social question. To understand the prison of today we need to know its history. Imposing imprisonment as the main punishment for crime did not start until the early 19th century. Before that,

compensation or physical punishments such as execution or mutilation were the norm and they were then replaced by transportation to the New World.

Punishments, then, are not static. There is change and development. Do we really intend to carry on beyond the millennium with a system that costs so much, causes so much pain, and does so little good?

Vivien Stern is the Director of the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders

Lust turned all to ashes

Anthony Storr

SECRET LIFE
An Autobiography
By Michael Ryan
Bloomsbury, £8.99 paperback
original

Michael Ryan is an American poet who has won many awards for his work and who used to teach at Princeton, until his sexual pursuit of students led to his being sacked. He describes himself as a "sex addict". It could be argued that, since sex is as compulsive a need as food or excretion for most people, the majority of mankind are sex addicts. But Ryan's case is different.

His sex life began when he was five years old, when a neighbour's son began taking photographs of him and proceeded to sexual touching and then fellatio. The relationship persisted for about a year. This is a depressingly familiar story: but Ryan conveys an aspect of it which victims often omit. Although his sexual initiation was distasteful, and the secrecy demanded of him was alarming, Ryan felt that, because he was emotionally important to his seducer, he both valued the man and had power over him. This ministered to his self-esteem.

It is hardly surprising that the little boy responded to a man who was kind and in a distorted sense loving, since Ryan's father was an alcoholic who beat his children with a belt and maltreated them physically in other ways. His advice on sex to his adolescent son consisted of a single sentence: "When you're with a woman, use a rubber."

At the age of 50, Ryan seems to have total recall of his childhood and adolescence. "For hours a day when I was bowling, time would evaporate. I'd think about my approach, my backswing, the angle of my thumb when I released the ball, whether or not I was getting enough finger lift." But Ryan is no Salinger, and British readers will find his detailed accounts of his successes and failures at baseball and at bowling tedious. His sexual encounters,



Ryan: unusually honest

with girls, men, and the family dog, are scarcely more enthralling.

What is amazing, and largely unexplained, is how so phillistine a boy is transformed into a poet who taught at Princeton. It seems probable that an eccentric professor at Notre Dame with a gift for talent-spotting was responsible. However that may be, Ryan was fired in 1981.

What this unusually honest book does, and does very well, is to demonstrate one possible outcome of early sexual molestation. If sex is the only thing in life which makes a boy and a man feel valued, he is likely to become a compulsive Don Juan. The accompanying publicity sheet informs us that: "In 1990 he realised that his sex addiction was out of control and joined a programme along with other addicts to cure his insatiable need for sex." It would be interesting to know the outcome of his treatment.

Hope blooms in the desert

Samantha Weinberg

IMAGININGS OF SAND

By André Brink
Secker & Warburg, £15.99

The elections in South Africa two years ago were a momentous event, a bend in a long straight road. A country went back to the drawing board, started to rewrite its history and redefine its culture in the face of a new future. André Brink, perhaps inevitably, has placed his magnificent book, *Imagings of Sand*, in the few uncertain weeks surrounding the elections. But like many of his previous works, this book reaches so much further, gathering in fragments of the past, in order to re-examine and reassemble them in the light of what will come to be.

Kristien, a derelictised Afrikaner, is called back from London to her dying grandmother's bedside. Her grandmother, Ouma Kristina, has been the victim of arsonists, who tried to burn down the turreted ostrich palace in the semi-desert where she lives.

Ouma refuses to die before telling Kristien stories about her ancestors, a line of extraordinary women: Kamma, who was picked from her Khikhoi tribe by a large Afrikaner and became a tree in 1870; her daughter Lotie, who vanished



André Brink: a many-layered portrait of a changing land

in search of her shadow; her daughter Samuel, and so on down the tree to Ouma and finally to Kristien.

The magical stories Ouma tells, hovering on that uncertain line between believability and fantasy, cover the time from when the Afrikaners first settled in South Africa to the present day. Kristien sits by Ouma's coffin, which the old woman has insisted on climb-

ing into, recording the stories — "before she retreats into her inner desert again, that place of moving dunes that shift position from one day to the next, ceaselessly rewriting their landscape and redefining their space" — and the rest in the reality of a country she escaped over a decade before.

In this "real-time", she meets the inhabitants of the desert, the players in the South

African chess game. Here are the Afrikaners, afraid of losing the land they loved and "paid for in blood and shit", the liberals, the wise old black people, the disaffected youth, the smart new politicians, the bigoted old ones, the hawk for whom the election will change nothing: "I'll still have trouble selling vegetables."

Each has his stance, and if I have a criticism of this book, it is that some of these caricatures lack life; they appear to have been created only as a mouthpiece for a sharply-defined set of views.

But this hardly mars a wonderful book. Like the history of South Africa itself, it has many layers, and also many truths. It is about discord and reconciliation: between Kristien and her downtrodden sister Anna, between Kristien and the country she has sworn never to return to, between new and old, black and white, dreams and reality.

It is like a rite of passage; after reading it, one is well-placed to contemplate what might be in the South Africa of tomorrow. As one of its characters, an old ANC warrior, says on being asked why he is here: "Write a new chapter, yes. Close the old books, no. We can't imagine the future by pretending to forget the past."

Samantha Weinberg's novel, *Last of the Pirates*, is published by Jonathan Cape

Origami journey

Kate Hubbard

DRIVETIME

By James Meek
Polygon, £8.99 pb original

READING *Drivetime*, James Meek's second novel, is not unlike finding yourself in a hall of mirrors where illusion and reality appear as one and images multiply into infinity. So in this novel sanity and insanity seem to be more or less indistinguishable and the many-layered plot to forever fold in on itself.

When Alan Allen, a student of English literature at Edinburgh University, is thrown off his course, he decides to begin a new life in Glasgow, where the people are "hard and cool and warm". To reach Glasgow he needs a car and to buy a car he needs money, which is why he accepts the offer of a stranger met at a party, called McStrachan, to collect an antique egg from "down south".

So begins a nightmarish journey, and not just geographically, along the motorways of Europe, with the elusive egg and the promiscuous land of Glasgow ever receding.

Alan's driving companions are not well chosen: Deirdre, a psychiatric nurse, loved by Alan; Mike, a baseball-bat-wielding fellow student, literary purist and possible psychopath, loved by Deirdre; Sim, an elegantly dressed systems analyst who suffers from an incurable disease which accelerates the ageing process. Mike rants, Deirdre teases. Sim shrivels and the hapless Alan, dogged by personal misfortune and civil anarchy, keeps driving.

In Northampton he is arrested and accused of perjury and cruelty by an animal rights activist. In Salerno he is left abandoned, penniless and at the mercy of an Italian family, who put him in a mental hospital, where both Mike and McStrachan appear to have been former inmates; after being mistaken for a local Edinburgh councillor he unwittingly unleashes a wave of riots across Europe. The look-like councillor is just one of several recurring characters who haunt Alan and provide a strange constancy amid the changing landscape.

THIS is a novel where disturbing coincidences, improbable connections and cases of mistaken identity are rife. But although its humour leans towards the laborious, Meek has a gift for the surreal throwaway image.

It is rather as though David Lynch had been let loose on the set of a drawing room comedy. There will be readers who find this peripatetic fantasy too wacky, but they may still admire the dexterity with which Meek juggles his shifting characters and ties up the ends of his narrative.

Angel in a gospel of hate

It is a sad paradox that even though Jesus preached a gospel of love, Christians have often felt justified in cultivating a righteous hatred of those whom they believe to be in error. Crusaders slaughtered Muslims and Jews; the orthodox have killed heretics; and for centuries Catholics and Protestants have vilified and persecuted one another. Frequently Christians accuse the "other" side of being in league with Satan.

In this erudite and illuminating study, Elaine Pagels has traced this tendency back to the New Testament. She argues persuasively that belief in Satan originated in certain Jewish sects, whose members denounced their fellow Jews as the sons of darkness. The Hebrew Bible, however, has no conception of the Devil. Satan is simply a member of the angelic court whose task is to obstruct human activity, sometimes — as in the case of Balaam — in a way that is beneficial to humanity.

But later, during the troubled years of the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, radical Jews told stories about angels who had fallen from grace, basing these tales on obscure and ambiguous scriptural texts. When they asked "How could God's own angel become His enemy?" they were also asking, in effect, how their fellow Jews, who did not share their religious passions, could have turned away from God. Such sects as the Essenes saw themselves as a righteous elite at war with the demonic "powers of darkness" who had infected the rest of the Jewish community.

Pagels shows that the first Christians shared this vision of a universe divided between God's people and Satan's. Her penetrating critique reveals a stream of pure hatred running through each one of the four Gospels. The demons of the New Testament, which liberal Christians prefer to ignore, are central to the story of Jesus. The four evangelists all revile their Jewish contemporaries, who refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah, as apostates in Satan's thrall.

In each, aggressive Gospel the Jews become increasingly demonic; while Pontius Pilate, who was renowned for his ruthlessness and cruelty, becomes ever more sympathetic. Mark, who was writing in



Lucifer and Satan attending the jaws of Hell: from the *Livre de la Déablerie*, printed in Paris (1568)

about AD 70, shows Jesus battling with Satan at the outset of His career and insists that the Jews forced the Romans to execute Him. Some 15 years later, Matthew denounces the Pharisees, the Jewish leaders of his day, as "Sons of Hell" destined for the "fire reserved for the Devil and his angels".

Luke, the only gentle evangelist, goes further. He suggests that the Jews are allied with "the powers of darkness". He has Satan entering into Judas Iscariot and setting in motion the events that would culminate in the Crucifixion. Finally, writing in about AD 100, John shows Satan becoming incarnate in human form: first in Judas, then in the Jewish authorities, and lastly in "the Jews", who form the armies of hell in countless conflict with the forces of light.

Besides teaching the importance of love, therefore, the Gospels laid

Karen Armstrong

THE ORIGIN OF SATAN
A Social History.
By Elaine Pagels
Viking, £20

the foundations of that virulent anti-Semitism which has led to some of the most shameful chapters in Christian history. But the habit of hatred did not stop there. From the Gospels, later Christians learnt to demonise their other enemies. Their faith became paranoid, embittered and defensive: Christian soldiers must march onward, as to war.

Pagels shows that during the Roman persecutions, Christians believed that they were engaged in a cosmic battle with Satan: a martyr's death frustrated a diabolic

conspiracy against humankind. The pagan gods became devils in their minds, Greek and Roman culture was now demonic, and teachers such as Origen undermined the religious sanction for the State. Finally, "heretics" who did not share the opinions of the Establishment were denounced as Satan's agents.

Pagels does not deny that many Christians have transcended this sorry legacy. Many, however, have not: they see no incompatibility between the gospel of love and a righteous denigration of people from other ethnic, religious or ideological groups. Only by acknowledging this tragic flaw, which Pagels's important book has shown to be deeply embedded in their tradition, can Christians hope to correct it and avoid the hatred that their faith has so often tragically inspired in the past.

Nigel Hawkes on a vision of man-made catastrophe

Once again, the end is nigh

In the history of ideas, a long struggle has been fought between stasis and catastrophe. The Old Testament gave catastrophe a running start, with its emphasis on flood, plague, and pestilence, but in the 18th century along came James Hutton, a Scottish physician who declared that the Earth had always been much as it seemed. Every feature on its rumpled surface could be explained by the infinitely slow processes of geology, operating over unimaginable stretches of time.

In spite of the efforts of arch-catastrophist Georges Cuvier, who claimed that life was wiped out regularly by floods, Hutton's uniformitarianism soon became the dominant idea. Darwin believed that fossil evidence of past catastrophes was merely an index of that record's incompleteness. An attempt earlier this century to overthrow uniformitarianism by Immanuel Velikovsky, author of *Worlds in Collision*, was easily seen off and the scientific community cheered. But the celebrations were premature.

In the past 20 years it has become clear that catastrophes really have happened and that evolution, far from being a steady rise from single-celled bacteria to Masters of Balliol, has been a rollercoaster. In the Cambrian explosion half a billion years ago, a huge number of new species emerged in just a few million years, a burst of creativity unmatched before or since. And the fossil record, *pace* Darwin, shows a string of catastrophes of which the most recent was the elimination of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin now want us to believe that the five recorded catastrophes are being succeeded by a sixth, for which the human race is responsible. The thesis is propounded in a book that is by turns intimate and academic, passages of first-person narration interspersed with an excellent account of recent work in evolution and ecology; though the two elements do not always gel. The claim that man's dominion has made life harder for countless other species is not exactly new, but here the evidence is superbly marshalled and undeniably persuasive. The extinction of a range of

THE SIXTH
EXTINCTION
Biodiversity and its
Survival

By Richard Leakey and
Roger Lewin

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99

ANCESTRAL PASSION

The Leakey Family and the
Quest for Humankind's
Beginnings

By Virginia Morell

Simon & Schuster, \$30

huge creatures from the American continent 11,000 years ago has in the past been blamed on climate change, but recent evidence implicates the Clovis people, who started killing elephants, mastodons and giant sloths and didn't know when to stop. In New Zealand, the Polynesian settlers saw off a whole menagerie of flightless birds. Similar destruction continues today, though some creatures have power-



The Leakeys with Melvin Payne (right) of the National Geographic Society in 1972

ful friends to protect them — not least Richard Leakey himself, who raised the plight of the African elephant to worldwide prominence. But everywhere smaller animals, insects and birds are disappearing, or so the ecologists claim. What, if anything, can be done about it is a different question.

As Leakey and Lewin make clear, ecosystems are fragile, unpredictable, and made up of a range of species which owe their presence there largely to chance. Given the pressure on space, even the best-intentioned of human societies are going to continue to wreak havoc. As the existing balance of species is

not God-given but the consequence of accident, does change matter so much?

To most people, the wilderness has no moral authority. They regard the claim made by the ecologist Les Kaufman that "a piece of the American soul died along with the passenger pigeon, plains buffalo and American chestnut" — quoted approvingly here — as a self-indulgent worthy of Pseudo's Corner. Mankind may have to learn to run the planet like a garden, but most people prefer gardens to wilderness, anyway. The problem is that managing ecosystems is so complex a task that the attempt is doomed to failure. Small wonder that the book leaves one with a sense of impotence.

Virginia Morell's account of the Leakey family is a labour of love, for she makes it clear that this is the recent history of palaeontology told from the Leakey viewpoint. The approach has its drawbacks, because the field is riven by dispute and personal animosity, and the American palaeontologists Donald

Johanson and Tim White, for years at loggerheads with the Leakeys, declined to be interviewed.

But she is at pains to be fair and the book bulges with detail. Louis Leakey, the founder of the clan, ultimately triumphed after his first finds had been ridiculed and his academic standing destroyed. To him and his wife Mary, Richard's mother, is owed a large part of the credit for establishing that Africa was the cradle of mankind. But he was impulsive, made enemies easily, and never quite won the support of more conservative colleagues. When he died, the family dabbled over placing a headstone on his grave and when they got round to it, found that one of Louis' many lady friends had already done it without even asking. "The nerve!" says Richard.

The story is a compelling one, and very well told. It sheds light on a field where a powerful personality may be as valuable as a good mind: a science that is still in some ways pre-scientific.

The Times/Dillon lecture by Richard Leakey will take place in London on February 12. Details and ticket coupon page 33

Woodsod's coarser pleasures

It is 1791, which in France some are calling the Third Year of Liberty, and the young Englishman shod like a carthorse is a poet. He makes ponderous jokes and drinks his wine only by sniffing at it. He speaks atrocious French and his name is unpronounceable: Woodsod, Wodsod, Wozwod, something like that.

Annette Vallon sets out to be his tutor in her language, but before very long he has her in his bed. A royalist, she rejects the brick from the broken Bastille which this naive republican brings her as a love-gift. She calls him "Mr Williams", however, and is sufficiently well-pleased by his attentions not to be able to recall if he removes his boots during their performance.

Using the few facts known of Wordsworth's early affair with Annette Vallon, Michael Baldwin manages at first to make quite a plausible romance of them. His Annette, spirited but vulnerable, observes for instance that her lover seems to think her body to be "like one of his country paths, to be strayed over at will and revisited whenever it suited him". This catches Wordsworth with his pants down in a way that might well be true. It is clever of Baldwin, too, to show the poet turning aside from love-making to compose



A contemporary portrait presumed to be of Annette Vallon.

the only lines in his *Descriptive Sketches* which could possibly be read as directly erotic — lines which the later Wordsworth was most careful to suppress.

The novel goes wrong when Baldwin has William and Annette "married before God"

Robert Nye

THE FIRST MRS
WORDSWORTH
By Michael Baldwin
Little, Brown, £16.99

her. All that we know for certain is that she bore his child a month or so after he had fled away to England, and

that his abandonment of her and their daughter did not do his conscience any good. The matter goes unremarked in *The Prelude*, but forms the theme of *Vaudracour and Julia*, about two lovers who have an illegitimate child.

A novel is a licence to suppose, but *The First Mrs Wordsworth* strains credulity by supposing too much and shattering the psychological verisimilitude it has itself created. Only a reader unfamiliar with Wordsworth's life and work could readily swallow its central thesis: that the couple went through a form of marriage.

Baldwin seems to have taken literally a single letter in which Annette calls William "mon mari" — but as Emile Legouis remarked long ago, when first turning up the whole sad story, this must have been wishful thinking on the part of a young woman who read too many novels.

Frankly, had Wordsworth been a bigamist then the tension might have improved his later verse. But it is possible to forgive Baldwin his flight of fancy for the sake of the wholly believable Wozwod, who stalks through his earlier chapters — he of the bone-white legs and the clumpy boots, "a man of preternatural animal sensibilities".

helplessly, afflicted" (her next book will be about psychopaths of the 1950s).

HOWEVER that might be, her labour was worthwhile for the bibliography alone. As is the fashion, this is not a list but a closely-primed 90-page essay, chockful of books to seek out (galling how many American books, past and present, are unavailable here). One is grateful to learn of the early novels by Billy Walker's collaborator, Charles Brackett, and the memoirs by the singer Ethel Waters; glad too, that somebody else enjoys the witty novels by Katharine Brush; but puzzled that she overlooks a masterpiece which encapsulates the era — that semi-rhyming, free-verse tale of drunkenness and debauchery, Joseph Moncure March's 1928 *The Wild Party* (now available in an elegant Picador volume, illustrated by Art Spiegelman).

Afflicted by the unnatural city

Christopher
Hawtree

TERRIBLE HONESTY
By Ann Douglas
Picador, £20

bibles than all of Europe and gives an alarming catalogue of alcoholic authors.

She admits that this book took two decades — owing to her own alcoholism, which has made her alert for such self-destructive creation as Scott Fitzgerald's.

Early on, apparently, Alcoholics Anonymous took as its Bible *The Varieties of Religious Experience* by William

James. Although dead in 1910, he remains central to Professor Douglas's view of emergent urban America, as is Sigmund Freud, who spent only one week in New York (enough time for him to be offered \$100,000 to write a movie script). All this leads her to think that the period contained the most "penetrating analysis, sophisticated spoofing, and exciting storytelling the American mind has ever stocked at one time".

It was also an era, bracketed by the Great War and the Crash, which was "a kind of paradigmatic set-up for manic depressive illness, an illness with which I believe America is still, and at times, it seems,

A NARROW partition separates the comprehensive from the rag-bag. Ann Douglas's account of Manhattan in the 1920s is certainly pell-mell, and could hardly be otherwise. The period fulfilled Wallace Stevens's remark about "this electric gown, which I adore". By the 1920s, he was in Hartford and missed the metropolis. Reason for this is clear even from the sporadically lit path that is the 600 pages of Professor Douglas's prose.

Refreshingly, Professor Douglas ranges across cultures, so many of which were brought together by radio. Vulgar relish is integral to true civilisation, that sense of what Chandler called "terrible honesty". Professor Douglas often appears to be a human CD-Rom, immediately able to summon up a dozen authors' variants on that phrase, just as she readily asserts that New York City had more automo-

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Tour firms woo the grey set

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

TOUR OPERATORS are targeting older holidaymakers as research underlines their high spending power and determination to travel. Almost all the big holiday companies now have specialist units determined to cash in on one of the most lucrative sections of the struggling holiday market.

According to Sovereign Holidays, 36 per cent of the over-55s have a gross income of more than £19,500 a year. Many have paid off their mortgages and 38 per cent have an income from private pensions.

With so much money to spend — by next year the total amount of discretionary income in the hands of 45 to 70-year-olds is expected to be more than £10 billion — it is not surprising that tour operators, who face a fall of up to 30 per cent in bookings from the family market, are switching their attention to the "greys".

Holidays are high on the list of priorities for the over-55s, with more 55 to 65-year-olds taking an annual holiday than any other age group, and spending an average of £574 per person. Older people also take more holidays in a year than the average. By 2000, the over-55s will make up 26 per cent of the population.

Research shows that although 53 per cent choose a holiday by the sea, they also want to be able to pursue their hobbies, take cultural tours and ensure their creature comforts are well looked after.

"Nearly two thirds of our clients come from the upper age groups and are looking for

slightly more sophisticated and tailored holidays," says Pritchard, marketing manager for Sovereign Holidays, says. "With years of experience of foreign holidays under their belts, the over-55s are proving to be ever more discerning customers."

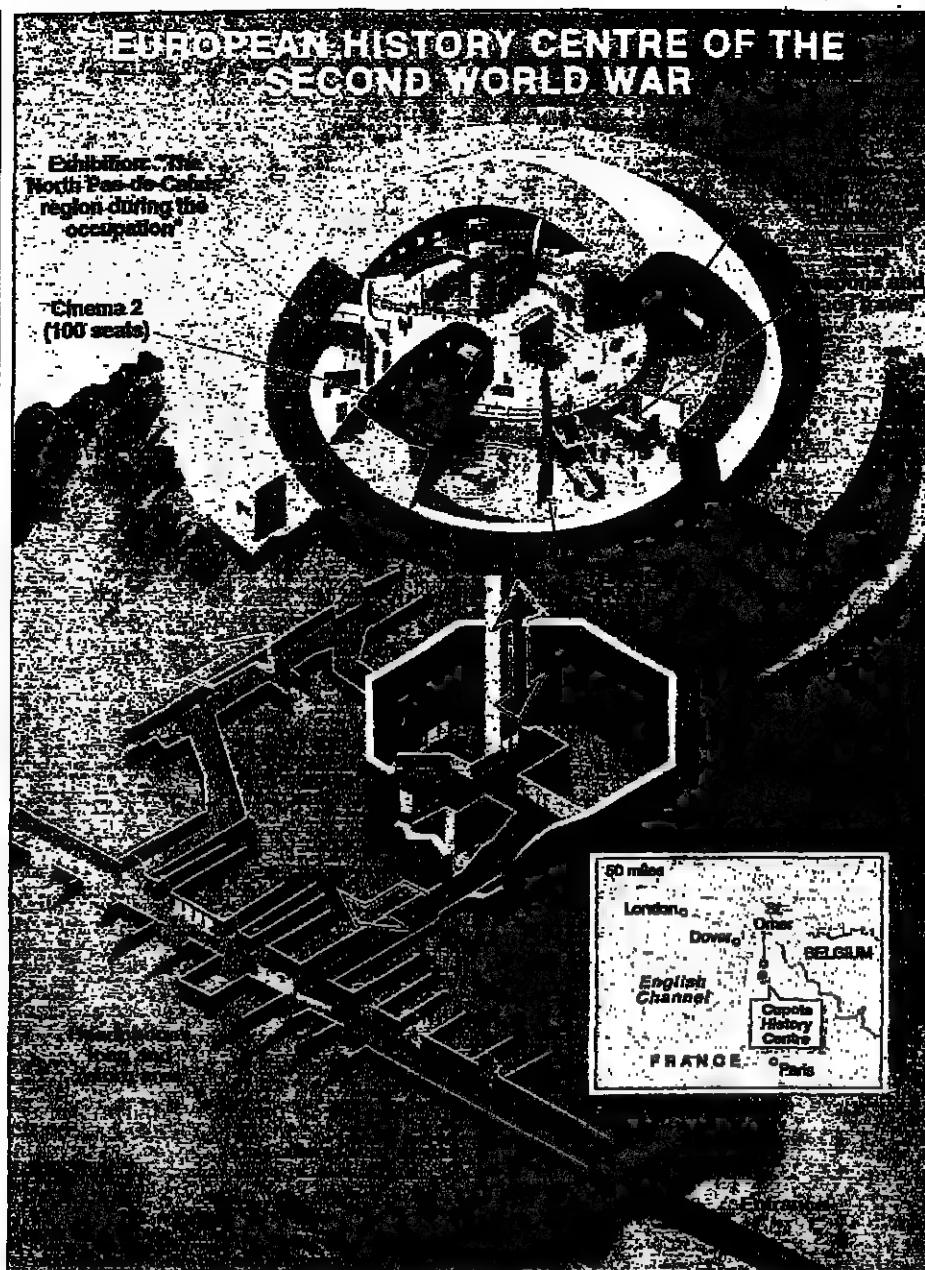
Inspirations has launched a brochure aimed for the first time at the older, retired holidaymaker. Prices in the Warm Winters brochure start at £121 for seven nights self-catering in Benidorm including return flights.

The importance of older people has long been recognised by the highly profitable and fast-expanding Saga Holidays. It has specialised in taking them all over the world during the quieter months when families with school-aged children cannot generally get away.

Now Saga is launching a range of holidays to cater for single people aged over 50. The brochure, *Specialty for Singles*, includes activities such as ten-pin bowling, ice skating, canal cruising, walks, talks, dry slope skiing, surfing lessons, swimming, music evenings or visits to country pubs.

Prices range from £204 for a week's half-board at a horticultural college campus near Chelmsford to £538 for two weeks in Rhodes where Greek dancing and scuba-diving are on offer.

Italy, which specialises in a discount of £30 per person on holidays taken midweek or during school term time.



SPAIN had another record year last year, Edward Owen writes. There were a total of 63.5 million visitors — 3 per cent more than in 1994 — of which 45 million were tourists, about eight million of them from Britain.

The country is trying to attract a "better class" of tourist by increasing prices and improving offers, particularly for those exploring the hinterland. Now that its 17 autonomous regions have the responsibility of promoting tourism in their areas, rather than the central government, a deluge of helpful information is available — as Ritur, the Spanish travel trade fair,

showed last week in Madrid. Benidorm, already rid of its lager-lout image, is taking a gamble by restricting bookings from British tour operators. Bookings by Thomsons are about 15 per cent down and prices are up to pay for

improvements in accommodation and the town's amenities. The resort is also welcoming more Russians — some 10,000 paid up to £1,000 each last year for a two-week package from Moscow.

For those driving in Spain, two of the main wine regions, Rioja and the Duero valley, offer special routes to take in the bodegas, scenery and historic sites. Pedro Benito Urbina, the director of Rioja's oenological station, says last year's harvest was perfect. "If

we had to create the ideal conditions in a laboratory, they would not have been so good," he said. Each region is offering information on rural hotels and traditional houses. And around Seville, in Andalusia, visitors can imagine themselves as sherry barons in sprawling country *cortijos*, with luxurious ruins and fine homes to ride.

V2 on show at Nazi bunker

By TONY DAWE

THE V2 rocket, Hitler's secret weapon which was intended to bring Britain to its knees in the Second World War, will soon be used to woo British tourists to a new exhibition centre in the north of France.

One of the rockets, now dismantled, will take pride of place in the gallery being built in the same bunker which the Nazis planned as the base from which to launch a final assault on Britain. Detailed plans for the centre and the construction work completed so far were unveiled by the French yesterday.

They include a display of secret German weapons, an exhibition showing how the rockets have been developed for use in the Western world's space programme, and two cinemas which will show films compiled from hundreds of hours of footage from British, French, American and German archives.

Work is well advanced on converting the bunker, which was built in a quarry at Helfant-Wizernes near St Omer and covered with a 15ft-thick concrete dome. Builders will also soon start work on a striking, modern reception hall in front of the bunker and the new attraction, the Euro-

pean History Centre of the Second World War, which will open early next year.

The £800,000 project has been devised by historians who recognised the huge bunker's importance, and local government and tourism officials, who realised its potential for attracting visitors to an area now bypassed by Eurostar trains and the A26 autoroute.

"We don't want to see the trains and the cars go past, and know that this is an excellent opportunity to create an historic and symbolic tourist centre," Guy Froment, the centre's managing director, says. "The bunker symbolises the dark past of Europe, but the modern architecture of the reception will be a symbol for the Europe of the future."

The Germans started building the bunker, designed to launch 50 V2 rockets a day, in August 1943. The plans included workshops, stores, barracks, rooms, a hospital and dozens of miles of tunnels.

The structure was spotted by the British, however, and between March and July 1944 the Royal Air Force unloaded 3,000 tons of bombs in the area. The Nazis were forced to abandon their plans and

launch the rockets from mobile sites, although the dome was only slightly damaged.

Initial market research has suggested that British tourists will be eager to visit the site and see what they were spared. M Froment said seven out of every ten British travellers interviewed thought that they would visit the centre on a future trip. An extra exhibition focusing on the special relationship between England and northern France is also planned.

The centre is expecting a total of 240,000 visitors a year. They will begin their tour in the airy reception building designed to convey an image of brightness and progress, in contrast to the initial gloom of the bunker, which they will enter through a long tunnel.

Headsets will enable them to follow the infra-red, audio-guided tour at their own pace, as they pass through scenes recapturing the period of the German occupation of northern France before they arrive at the foot of the Polygon, the unfinished site of the great rocket preparation room.

A lift will take them 100 feet up into the main exhibition area and cinemas beneath the "great dome".

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Concorde flyers snuff out BA smoking ban

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

WELL-HEELED Concorde passengers have demanded that British Airways set aside at least eight seats for passengers who want to smoke.

From May 1 British Airways is to ban smoking on flights to all United States destinations and to the Caribbean — journeys which can last up to ten hours. But after pressure from supersonic passengers, two rows of seats on Concorde flights to New

York and Barbados, taking only a little over three hours, will remain available to cigarette smokers. The airline has, however, drawn the line at cigars, which will remain banned in flight.

"Our passengers decided that they wanted to retain the right to choose for themselves," a spokesman said. "We always listen to our customers and Concorde passengers clearly did not want smoking banned altogether. Perhaps they are older, or more

tolerant, than the average passenger and have grown up in a culture which is not so against smoking."

A return fare between Heathrow and New York on Concorde, which has 100 seats, is £5,606. During detailed market research into smoking on board, BA was stunned by the vociferous reaction of Concorde passengers, who made it plain that they were not prepared to be dictated to — even though most do not smoke themselves.

All BA flights within Britain went non-smoking in 1988, followed by more than 400 European flights and services to Australia, New Zealand and Canada in 1994.

● Air France's recent decision to re-time its eastbound transatlantic Concorde service spells good news for British travellers. At present, travellers flying from New York to London or Manchester are forced to overnight in Paris because there is no same-day connection (although there

are good connections westbound from the UK). But from March 31, Air France's Concorde departs New York at the earlier time of 8am which, allowing for a short transfer at Paris Charles de Gaulle, will enable travellers to the UK to be there by evening. Air France also undercuts the direct-flight fare. The BA London to New York Concorde flight costs £5,606 return, and discounts are rare. Air France supersonic flights are available for less than £3,000 return.

Hotels to raise cash for Unicef

By DAVID CHURCHILL

INTER-CONTINENTAL Hotels this week announced plans to celebrate its 50th anniversary in the spring by appealing to business travellers who stay in its 170 hotels worldwide to make a special donation to Unicef, the United Nations Children's charity, which also celebrates its golden jubilee this year.

Inter-Continental is asking its guests, 70 per cent of whom stay on business, to round up their bill by about \$10 as a donation to Unicef's work.

Such a donation would, says Inter-Continental, provide enough vitamin A tablets for 300 Third-World children to be protected from blindness. A \$20 donation would provide clean water and sanitation for a child for a year.

The hotel chain hopes to raise at least \$1 million (£650,000) from the idea, but would like to generate up to \$5 million during its anniversary year.

Guests will be asked when leaving their hotel if they want to make a donation which will be included on their bill; if they prefer, a separate credit card donation can be made. Staff have been trained not to pressure guests, especially those who frequently stay in an Inter-Continental hotel.

Robert Collier, joint managing director of Inter-Continental, said yesterday that the campaign was "aimed at being helpful and unobtrusive, and is being fully backed by our staff who are holding their own fundraising events during the year."

Robert Smith, Unicef's executive director, pointed out that the charity's work over the last half century "has helped to reduce global child mortality from 25 million a year to 12.5 million, although that figure is still too high."

While Inter-Continental is the first hotel chain to organise such a scheme on behalf of Unicef, British Airways has for the past two years operated a system called Change For Good, which encourages its passengers to donate their foreign coins and notes to Unicef.

The scheme, which initially operated only on long-haul flights, has just been extended to cover European short-haul flights out of Manchester and Birmingham. BA says that more than £2 million has so far been raised for Unicef.

The airline's surveys indicated that the 200 million or so international air travellers each year are left with about \$40 million in non-convertible foreign coins and low value notes. This, it says, is usually put into a "safe place", and promptly forgotten.

● Unicef: 0345 312312.

British find France too expensive

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

FEWER than one in five British holidaymakers who went to France last year plan to return in 1996 because of the surprisingly high cost of living, according to a survey published this week.

France is perceived to offer the worst value for money and to be far more expensive than expected by 45 per cent of those who visited in 1995, says American Express.

On the other hand those who spent their holidays in Australia, New Zealand and Cyprus found them to be less expensive than they had anticipated.

British holidaymakers spent more than £13 billion abroad last year, of which 44 per cent went on meals out, sightseeing accounts for the second largest amount of holiday spending, at 22 per cent, and drinking is third, at 14 per cent. About 20 per cent of men of all age groups said that drinking was their greatest expense on holiday while for women the figure was only 9 per cent.

Travellers seek exotic ideas for millennium

By TONY DAWE AND RACHAEL JOLLEY

THE travel industry is preparing to face up to one of its toughest challenges: the premature enthusiasm of seasoned travellers and avid partygoers to celebrate the millennium in style.

Special brochures will start appearing later this year, hotels are already trying to sift thousands of applications for 1999 New Year's Eve parties and organised companies have laid spectacular plans. However, travel experts are attacking the industry for a lack of originality.

"The trouble is that all the best hotels are always full at new year and need to do little more than arrange a bigger party than usual," says Anna Scott, a leading travel consultant. "As far as exotic holidays are concerned, there is nothing new about a balloon safari over Africa or swimming with dolphins in Florida."

The most original ideas so far include seeing in the millennium twice: either by flying Concorde to New York or by cruising in the South Pacific. A nine-day voyage will call at Fiji for New Year's Eve before crossing the international dateline to catch the party in the Cook Islands.

The dawn of the new millennium will rise on Chatham Island, an outpost of New Zealand, which is the first place to see the sunrise each day. This story and inhospitable spot loses out as a party location. However, the idyllic Vavau in Tonga, just west of the dateline, will host a \$3.75-a-head (£2,450) party with entertainers such as Jean-Michel Jarre.

Closer to home, the Savoy Hotel in London already has

enough potential bookings to fill up twice over. A spokeswoman said a shortlist would be held next year.

The owners of the Simpson-Venice Orient Express and the luxury British Pullman train are considering offers to hire them at more than £20,000 each. The Millennium Society, based in America, has booked the QE2 for a 20-day jaunt, culminating in a grand fireworks display at the foot of the Egyptian pyramids.

After ballooning 1,000 regular travellers to discover their ideas, Thomas Cook will publish a special millennium brochure later this year featuring trips to the Pyramids, Sydney and the Taj Mahal. "It seems people want to make the big day really stand out," a company spokesman said.

Miss Scott believes romantic or inspirational places will be the best venues to celebrate, depending on people's tastes. "What could be a more inspiring place to welcome a new millennium than the Taj Mahal or the Abdyodes temple on the Nile?" she asks.

"For an opera buff, what could be better than sitting in the Teatro la Fenice in Venice, providing the restoration has been completed?"

Party planners who want to get away from the crowds have asked to hire the National Trust's more remote cottages: the most asked-for location is Cornwall. Meanwhile, people who would rather avoid the millennium altogether, can trek to Nepal with Exodus Travel where, because of the different calendar, the year will be 2050; or they can join a trip to Ethiopia where it will be 1993.



Ready trek fans of Captain Kirk and Mr Spock are flocking to the Science Museum

Star turn at museum

By DAVID CHURCHILL

LONDON'S Science Museum is boldly going where no museum has gone before, with its most successful exhibition ever — the display of Star Trek costumes and memorabilia which is estimated to have attracted more than 250,000 "trekkers" since opening last October.

The popularity of the exhibition is such that the museum has just decided to extend its run for an extra two weeks, until March 10.

And it may also propel the Science Museum ahead of its neighbouring museums in the capital's league table.

For numbers in recent years have been static at about 1.3 million, although this year it believes the popularity of Star Trek will push it above 1.5 million visitors in total; more than the Victoria & Albert and neck and neck with the Natural History Museum.

More importantly, according to Mark Sullivan, the project director, the exhibition has attracted people who do not visit museums.

"We are clearly drawing the museum's attention to people who might not have considered us in the past," he said.

The popularity of the exhibition has been helped this

year by the thirtieth anniversary celebration among fans of the original series featuring Captain Kirk which first hit television screens in America in 1966.

It is estimated that Star Trek — which has spawned seven films and three other television series — is now being screened somewhere on earth 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

● Star Trek — The Exhibition, until March 10 at The Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7. Admission (exhibition only): £4.95 for adults, £2.95 children and concessions; combined ticket £8 and £4.50.

Soccer strips to be sold in-flight

By STEVE KEENAN

BRITAIN'S third largest charter airline, Air 2000, is to start selling Newcastle United football shirts on board flights from the North East from April. And P&O European Ferries is also experimenting with the team strips of four Premiership clubs on its cross-Channel ferries.

The moves come as transport companies seek to improve their proportion of tax-free sales, ahead of the 1999 scrapping of duty-free allowances on goods such as alcohol and cigarettes.

Air 2000 has also invested

£500,000 in an on-board computer system, designed to speed up credit-card transactions, improve tracking of sales and inventory, and read bar-codes on goods.

In trials, the system has increased sales by 5 per cent. The airline is hoping to improve on last year's on-board sales of £20 million, which averaged just £5 per head.

Aircrew will distribute shopping magazines and tell passengers of special deals. As well as team shirts relevant to

the departure airport, the new range of goods includes exclusive perfumes.

With duty-free sales due to be scrapped, ferries, airports and airlines are placing more emphasis on tax-free goods such as toys, gifts and perfumes.

"We have to get away from the concept that the only items people want to buy in the air are alcohol and cigarettes," said Air 2000's managing director Bill Kirkwood.

"The buying of duty-free

goods also tends to be focused at the airport. We are telling customers that buying on board can be more comfortable and cost-effective."

"The average on-board spend in the past couple of years has been flat. We have to persuade people that shopping in the air can be part of a holiday experience."

P&O now carries 11,000 tax-free product lines on its 23 ships. Duty and tax-free sales accounted for 30 per cent of its £600 million revenue last year, with tax-free a growing proportion of the total.

SATURDAY TRAVEL

Travel the world in Weekend

Romantic weekends in Britain and Paris

Greece and the Greek Islands

How to cope with half-term

Jan Morris on the Everyman Guide to Paris

Europe's trains challenge airlines

By RAYMOND ATHERTON

MANY British executives continue to take the plane rather than the train when travelling to or within Europe in the misguided belief that flying saves time. But this is not always the case thanks to newer trains and better scheduling. There is now often little difference between the two on many medium-length journeys, yet a first-class rail ticket can cost up to 75 per cent less than a one-way flexible air fare. As a further bonus, rail passengers avoid taxi fares to and from airports and tickets are free of airport taxes.

An executive planning a short-stay weekend trip from London to either Paris or Brussels would pay as little as £59 or £69 return by Eurostar in standard or £155 in first-class compared to the cheapest equivalent air fares of more than £200. Even when based on flexible first-class tariffs, Eurostar still undercuts business-class fares to Paris or Brussels by more than 15 per cent.

But the greatest savings are within mainland Europe. A first-class passenger taking the train between Paris and

Brussels pays £66, against the air fare of £189. Frankfurt-Zürich costs £107 by rail compared to £217 by air. Zürich-Milan by air is £273 whereas the first-class rail fare is £70.

Europe's current leaders in high-speed rail (trains running at up to 186mph) are France and Germany. Germany's ICE trains run on purpose-built 186mph lines such as the Hamburg-Frankfurt-Munich one. They also make forays over conventional track on routes such as Frankfurt-Berlin and Frankfurt-Basel-Zürich. France's famous TGV trains run over long stretches of 186mph track south to Lyons, Geneva, Marseille and Nice, west to Brittany and southwest to Bordeaux and Biarritz. And the Paris bypass line (the rail equivalent of London's M25 motorway) means UK passengers heading beyond Paris no longer need to change in the French capital.

"Passengers arriving on Eurostar at the new Lille Europe station can connect with TGV trains south to Lyons in two hours or Mar-

seilles in four hours and 30 minutes," says Peter Mills, the French Railways spokesman. "Later this year a further link will enable the TGVs to run Lille-Nantes in three hours and Lille-Bordeaux in four hours," he says.

From June there will be a dramatic reduction in the time taken to cross the Alps by train. Pendolino "tilting trains" (made by Fiat of Italy) will cut an hour off the journey to Milan from Basel, Bern, Geneva and Zürich. While from October there will be a further reduction in the journey time between Paris, Lyons and Milan/Turin.

But rail travel does have some drawbacks: the booking systems are old-fashioned, so changing your ticket can be a hassle. And even buying a ticket in the UK can be a chore because few agents are rail-minded, although matters are improving. French Railways has opened "Rail Shops" in London, Manchester and Glasgow while London-based Eurostar and Hogg Robinson are two agents now meeting demand with dedicated rail ticket offices.

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

HOLIDAYS

TURKEY specialist, Sun-Tours, is offering three, four and seven-night holidays in Istanbul at prices between £129 and £189 per person until the end of March, with flights from Gatwick on Fridays and Mondays starting tomorrow. Details: 0171-434 3636.

□ BARGAIN holidays in the Algarve, with flights from Gatwick and Glasgow on February 19, are available from Co-op Travelcare. The price from Gatwick for a fortnight is £219 per person; from Glasgow for a week £149. Details: 0161-827 1030.

□ ARTSCAPE is offering a trip to The Hague on March 21-23 to visit a special Vermeer exhibition. Travel to Holland is by ferry and minicoach with 3-star hotel accommodation. Price per person: £189. Details: 01702 435990.

□ FLY to Goa at bargain prices with Inspirations; flights are from Glasgow on

February 17, Newcastle on February 19 and 25, Manchester on February 24 and Gatwick on February 29. Guesthouse prices start from £355 and hotels from £484 for a fortnight. Details: 01293 822244.

□ CLUB MED is offering "one in two fly free" deals to many of its ski resorts, including Chamonix and Les Arcs, for holidays starting on March 3, 10 and 17. Details: 0171-581 1161.

□ SINGLE travellers can make great savings on ESCOA cruises in the Far East this year as single supplements for trips aboard the *Superstar Gemini* have been reduced to £20 instead of the usual \$5 per cent levy on a normal fare. Details: 0117-927 2273.

□ LOW-COST hotels (from £13 a night) and car hire (from £11 a day) are featured in the new British Airways Holidays brochure. Details: 0345 222111.

HOTELS

STAPLEFORD Park in Leicestershire is guaranteeing a "lady-free" day for bachelors anxious to avoid proposals on February 29. The "great escape day" costs £200 a person and includes a five-course dinner and sporting activities such as clay pigeon shooting. Details: 01572 787522.

□ ANY marriage proposals made by diners in the Oak Room restaurant at Le Meridien hotel in Piccadilly on February 29 will qualify for a free bottle of champagne... if the proposal is accepted. Diners can also win a weekend trip to Paris for two staying at another Meridien hotel and travelling by Eurostar. Details: 0171-754 8000.

□ GUESTS staying at the Chelsea Hotel in Knightsbridge on February 29 who

are also celebrating their birthday will get an additional 15 per cent discount on the rate of £158 a night, which includes champagne and chocolates. Details: 0171-638 9650.

□ HILTON National has published its new *Times* Heritage weekends brochure featuring short breaks linked to historic events including the centenary of designer William Morris' death and battles of the English civil war. Prices start at £147 per person. Details: 01923 246464.

□ THE 200-acre High-bullen Country Estate and Hotel in North Devon is offering unlimited free golf for guests on its new 18-hole course which opens at Easter. Prices range from £47.50 to £70 per person per night. Details: 01769 540661.

FERRIES

NEW high-speed links to Ireland and starts from New-France herald early discounts from the Stena line. The *Stena HSS* is due to operate from March 1 on the Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire route. The crossing takes 90 minutes and two-day returns are being offered from £99 for a car and five passengers. Details: 01407 606765.

□ LE SHUTTLE is giving away bottles of Lanson champagne to customers booking a £126 standard return, or a full-fare short-break, which start at £70. The Channel Tunnel car service also quotes Monday-Thursday day trips for £30, weekend prices at £49. The promotions run until the end of March. Details: 0990 353535.

□ THE Sealynx catamaran has begun service on the

Dover to Calais route and starts from New-France herald early discounts from the Stena line. The *Stena HSS* is due to operate from March 1 on the Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire route. The crossing takes 90 minutes and two-day returns are being offered from £99 for a car and five passengers. Details: 01407 606765.

□ P&O EUROPEAN Ferries is quoting B&B short-breaks to Belgium for two nights from £79 per person including ferry from Dover or Portsmouth, valid until the end of February. Day returns on Dover-Calais cost £19 per car (£29 Saturdays), £4 per foot passenger. Details: 01992 456045.

□ NORTHERN Ireland day trips are available through Driveline Europe, using P&O's Cairnryan to Larne crossing from £10 a car and £4 a passenger. Details: 01707 600011.

FLIGHTS

□ UNJET is celebrating its 10th anniversary with special deals to New York (£189 return, book within the next week), Toronto (£283) and Bangkok (£450) for departures before March 31; all flights via Amsterdam. Details: 01444 440011.

□ RETURN flights to Johannesburg from £435 are offered by Flightbookers. Tickets for departures until the end of March from Heathrow or Gatwick. Details: 0171-757 2444.

□ BRITISH Airways £99 World Offer excursions to Bordeaux and Toulouse are now available for travel on any day of the week. Details: 0181-897 4000.

□ FROM April 1, Jersey Euro-pan will operate jet flights between London, Jersey, Birmingham and Stansted — the first time this route has been served. Details: 0345 676676.

□ AMERICAN Airlines is offering first and business-class passengers a 40,000-mile bonus on transatlantic flights taken before March 31. Details: 0345 567567.

□ LUFTHANSA's telephone check-in facility for passengers flying to Germany and beyond is up and running at Heathrow, Birmingham and Manchester. Passengers with only hand baggage dial 0345 737310 and collect boarding passes at the airport.

Lisbon & Porto from

£114

with 2 nights free accommodation in 3 star hotel.

Portugalline

0171 630 9223

All flights are on scheduled services. Bookings must be made by 15th February 1996, departures up to 28th March 1996. *Price is per person. 2 adults must travel together, 2nd occupancy 3 star hotel only, two night stay on a Saturday night. Subject to availability. Caravels Tours Ltd. ATOL 1395. Airport Taxes are not included.

Drink-related death outwith insurance

Dhak v Insurance Company of North America (UK) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Aldous and Sir John Balcombe
[Judgment February 19]

An insured person who took a calculated risk and embarked deliberately on a course of conduct which led to some bodily injury could not claim under a personal accident insurance policy if the bodily injury was the natural and direct consequence of the course of conduct.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mr Kashmir Singh Dhak, suing as administrator of the estate of his deceased wife, Mrs Indraj Singh, from the decision of Judge Malcolm Lee, QC, sitting as the mercantile judge at Birmingham on February 23, 1994 whereby he ordered that the plaintiff's claim against the defendants, the Insurance Company of North America (UK) Ltd should be dismissed.

The deceased was a ward at Birmingham General Hospital, she suffered severe back injury as a result of lifting a heavy patient and had a short period of treatment as an inpatient in hospital and then went home to work. She continued to suffer pain and began drinking alcohol in the hope of relieving the pain.

On October 28, 1986 while recovering at home from influenza she died and a post mortem showed that she had a very high concentration in her body of alcohol.

The deceased had a personal accident policy which specified that benefits would be payable for "bodily injury resulting in death or

injury within 12 months of the accident occurring during the period of insurance and caused directly or indirectly by the accident". The plaintiff obtained letters of administration and made a claim under the policy. Liability was repudiated by the defendants and the plaintiff sued them.

Mr Michael Spencer, QC and Mr Richard Hone for the plaintiff; Mr Crawford Lindsay, QC and Mr David Pittaway for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that to bring the claim within the terms of the insurance policy the plaintiff had established (i) that the deceased sustained a bodily injury (ii) that the bodily injury resulted in death and (iii) that the bodily injury was caused by accidental means.

An important issue at the trial was whether the deceased died from the toxic effects of the ingestion of alcohol or whether she died through asphyxiation. It might be that it was for that reason that the question whether the ingestion of foreign matter which led to asphyxiation did or did not involve some bodily injury was not fully explored when the three pathologists gave their evidence.

Accordingly, in considering the question whether the deceased suffered a bodily injury and whether that injury resulted in death one had to bear that point in mind.

The judge had held that "the immediate mechanism of death was asphyxiation caused by the regurgitation of the contents of the stomach of the deceased in her lungs" and that there was no bodily injury resulting in death. The defendants supported the judge's finding.

His Lordship was quite satisfied that the deceased's death resulted from bodily injury within the meaning of the policy for, inter alia, the following reasons:

1 The defendants were prepared to admit that in certain circumstances the swallowing of a person causing asphyxiation and death might involve bodily injury. But in such an event the mechanism of death would be similar to that in the present case.

The blockage of the windpipe would lead to asphyxiation and after a short time to congestion of the lungs. That would be followed or accompanied by petechial haemorrhages and the absence of oxygen would then cause damage to the brain by anaemia.

2 Bodily injury would often involve some external trauma. But in the absence of evidence that the deceased had been physically injured by any external means, the court was left with the conclusion that the injury was caused by accidental means.

3 The introduction of some foreign matter into the body or into a particular part of the body which caused harmful physiological changes in the structure of the body could, in his Lordship's view, amount to bodily injury.

It would be remembered that "bodily injury" was defined in the policy as "injury caused by accidental means". It was argued for the plaintiff that the deceased's death was plainly an accident.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that it had not been established that the bodily injury to the deceased was caused by accidental means within the meaning of the policy. In reaching that conclusion his Lordship had been persuaded that the words "caused by accidental means" were a clear indication that it was the cause of the injury to which the court pay its attention.

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His Lordship would put the matter as follows:

When an insured embarked deliberately on a course of conduct which led to some bodily injury one had to consider the following questions:

(a) Did the insured intend to cause some bodily injury to himself?

(b) Did the insured take a calculated risk that if he continued with that course of conduct he might sustain some bodily injury?

(c) Was some bodily injury the natural and direct consequence of the course of conduct?

(d) Did some fortuitous cause intervene?

In the present case there was no suggestion whatever that the deceased intended any bodily injury to himself. One had therefore to consider the other three questions. At the same time one must take account of all the circumstances including the state of knowledge or presumed state of knowledge of the insured.

In considering what could be foreseen one must apply the standard of knowledge of the reasonable person with the attributes of the insured.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the judge was justified in finding that the deceased must have been well aware of the consequences and dangers of drinking alcohol to excess and that she must have been taken to have foreseen what might happen in the event of someone drinking to excess. She was a ward sister with many years of experience as a nurse.

His Lordship felt quite unable to say that the deceased's injury and death were the direct result of some fortuitous cause. It was the direct consequence of her drinking to excess.

Indeed, his Lordship felt bound to say that for someone with her knowledge and experience she must be regarded as having taken a calculated risk of sustaining some bodily injury.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

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His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the judge was justified in finding that the deceased must have been well aware of the consequences and dangers of drinking alcohol to excess and that she must have been taken to have foreseen what might happen in the event of someone drinking to excess. She was a ward sister with many years of experience as a nurse.

His Lordship felt quite unable to say that the deceased's injury and death were the direct result of some fortuitous cause. It was the direct consequence of her drinking to excess.

Indeed, his Lordship felt bound to say that for someone with her knowledge and experience she must be regarded as having taken a calculated risk of sustaining some bodily injury.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

Solicitors: Graham Pearce & Co, Solicitors; Barlow Lyde Gilbert.

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Whether new tenancy created by council

Greenwich London Borough Council v Regan

Before Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Ward
[Judgment January 31]

It was a question of fact in every case whether a new tenancy or a licence was created when a landlord, who had obtained a suspended possession order for non-payment of rent against a secure tenant, allowed the tenant to remain in occupation after a breach of the order or reached agreement with the tenant as to the repayment of rent arrears.

In a case where the landlord had waived breaches of the tenancy agreement, the original tenancy agreement continued in being and sections 32(1) and 35 of Part IV of the Housing Act 1985 did not operate to bring into being a new tenancy or licence.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Robert Regan against the dismissal by Judge Harris in Woolwich County Court on September 7, 1993 of his application for a stay of possession and giving leave to his landlord, the London Borough of Greenwich, to execute a warrant for possession of 48 Wilton House, Kidbrooke, Blackheath for non-payment of rent.

Section 82 of the 1985 Act provides: "(1) A secure tenancy which is ... a weekly or other periodic tenancy ... cannot be brought to an end by the landlord except by obtaining an order of the court for the possession of the dwelling-house."

Section 35 provides: "(2) On the making of an order for possession of such a dwelling-house ... or at any time before the execution of the order, the court may (a) stay or suspend the execution of the order, or (b) postpone the date of possession for such period or periods as the court may think fit."

"(3) On such an adjournment, stay, suspension or postponement the court - (a) shall impose conditions with respect to the payment by the tenant of arrears of rent (if any) and rent or payments in respect of occupation after the termination of the tenancy (mesne profits), unless it considers that to do so would cause exceptional hardship to the tenant or would otherwise be unreasonable."

Mr William Geldart for the tenant; Mr Ian Peacock for the council.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said the council had first served the tenant with a notice seeking possession for rent arrears in September 1988. Proceedings had begun in

June 1989 and on July 24, 1989 an order for possession had been made, suspended until weekly payments of £175 towards the arrears.

There had been further breaches of the payment terms and the council had warned the tenant that he was in danger of eviction for non-payment. On February 3, 1990 the council had agreed to accept £10 a week towards the arrears. In addition to rent of £45.82, the council had said: "If you miss any payments in future, the possession order against you will be enforced and you will have to think fit."

It had been submitted that the secure tenancy had ended on September 4, 1989 when the tenant first committed a breach of the tenancy conditions and that the local authority must be taken to have entered into a new tenancy agreement. Alternatively, it was argued that a fresh tenancy was created in February 1990.

His Lordship reviewed the relevant sections of the Housing Act 1985. The judge had held that the combined effect of those provisions was that the tenancy was never terminated and that there was no reason in principle why a new tenancy should have arisen.

The object of suspension of possession was to give the tenant an opportunity to rectify his default. The tenancy would continue in the meantime and would never have been brought finally to an end and on discharge of an order there would be no date on which the tenant was to give up possession.

It was a question of fact in every case whether the parties' conduct was consistent with their relationship being modified or whether it was a new relationship altogether.

The facts of the present case were distinguished from those of *Burrows v Brent London Borough Council* (The Times July 21, 1993; [1993] 2 HLR 748), where the court had held that a new tenancy was created.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said section 32(2) envisaged two different situations. The first was where the tenancy was to be terminated and the date for termination had been postponed.

The power to order mesne profits was exercisable even if the tenant had been terminated by the operation of section 82. If the order for possession was discharged the termination of tenancy which was dependent on that order must fall with it.

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Can't pay share

bio-why?

1997

Sydney Tigers add Hanley to squad for ARL season

McRae aims to join rallying's all-time greats

"Nothing has really changed from last season. I have been too busy testing and doing a team tour to the Far East to notice any differences in my life caused by being world champion. I was invited on *Question of Sport*, but that is about it."

... "and everyone hates to lose finals," he said.



McRae, right, and Derek Ringer, his co-driver, celebrate victory in the Network O RAC Rally

Notice of appointment of
Re: **James Lick**
Name of company Stock One
Nature of business Considered
Case Law
of registered office 36-37 King
Edward, London EC2V 8JH, John
Lickisham's name and address C
H Hughes and S J L Aslam
Ernst & Young, Bechtel House,
Lambeth Palace Road, London
SE1 7EU. Date of appointment 26
March 1996. Date of publication
27 March 1996. Signed by
responsible creditors.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Stock One
(In Liquidation)
The above
No. 00318 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
IN AND FOR THE
CHANCERY
DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
COSHAM PLC
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a Petition was on 18th June
1996 presented to the
Hon'ble High Court of Justice for the
confirmation of the liquidation of
the above named company
and a premium account of it
has been made by the Company
and the Liquidator.

LEADING EUROPEAN TOUR MONEY-WINNERS: 1. J. Wozniak (3rd place, £100,000); 2. A. Collier (Scott £60,000, 3rd place, £50,000); 3. J. van der Veide (Netherlands £52,500); 4. J. van de Velde (Netherlands £45,000); 5. J. van der Stoep (South Africa £40,000); 6. J. Curry (Engl) and W. Riley (Aus) £30,000; 7. D. Clarke (N.Ire) £14,500; 8. R. Bostel (Engl) £13,800; 9. A. Huxford (Scott) £13,800

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[illegible][illegible]

By PETER BASS

Call 0891 100 123.
Calls cost 39p per min cheap rate,
49p per min at all other times

Customer-care policy paying dividends for royal course

Ascot rewarded with increased crowds

By Richard Evans, Racing Journalist of the Year

THE remarkable transformation in the fortunes and public appeal of Ascot was underlined yesterday by crowd figures for 1995, which revealed an increase of more than 15 per cent — compared to an average national rise of less than 1 per cent.

The attendance statistics are the clearest evidence yet of the impact made on racegoers by the new "customer-care" policy, introduced by Douglas Erskine-Crum and Nick Chene since they took over the day-to-day responsibility for running the royal racecourse in October 1994.

Without eroding the centuries-old tradition and championship quality racing at Ascot, the dynamic new team

Nap: MOI CANARD
(2.50 Lingfield Park)
Next best: Melford
(3.50 Lingfield Park)

has set about removing the outdated stiffness and needless red tape which was proving a turn-off for spectators. However, even they could not have hoped for such a swift response.

Total attendance in 1995 was 418,806, compared to 363,149 in 1994, which means Ascot attracted nearly 9 per cent of all spectators attending Britain's 59 racecourses.

In 1994, Ascot had one less fixture and lost two days to weather. Even when attendance figures for the equivalent three days last year are removed from calculations, the increase is still 34,742 or 9.6 per cent — nearly ten times the overall national increase.

While the glorious weather, which blessed the four-day royal meeting, contributed to an increased attendance, of



Ascot racecourse attracted a total attendance of 418,806 in 1995, an increase of more than 15 per cent on the previous year's figures

nearly 20,000, the sun alone would not have brought about the 8,172 rise (2.1 per cent) on the Friday.

Although final attendance figures for most courses are still being collated by Weatherby's, Haydock's flat crowds were down by 8.6 per cent, despite staging one extra fixture in 1995. Kempton was down 2.6 per cent from the same number of flat cards while York suffered a 6 per cent fall. Newmarket, which

has benefited from the impact made by Peter Player as chairman, saw numbers swell to 290,241 — an 11 per cent increase — from 262 days racing compared to 31 in 1994.

Erskine-Crum, Ascot's racecourse director, said yesterday: "We have put considerable emphasis in the last 12 months on developing customer relations, improving facilities and making the racecourse accessible and friendly. We have also worked hard to

maintain a programme of the highest quality across our 24 race-days.

He added: "We have many new plans for the future, all geared to providing our racegoers with the best possible entertainment, enjoyment, comfort and value for money. Racing has to compete for its market with a growing number of other sports and rival entertainments, so strong marketing and promotion, as well as improved

customer-care, have to be a key part of any strategy."

After appearing not so long ago to be still residing in the era of the quill pen, Ascot now has a new computer system which takes care of everything from accounts and marketing data to the ordering, allocating and printing of tickets — and a discount is being made available for the first time on Royal Ascot grandstand tickets bought before Derby Day.

Most of the infuriating "By

Order" signs, telling spectators they must not do, have been removed and the members' enclosure restaurant has been refurbished. A £2 million project, which will be completed in time for this year's royal meeting, will see the longest and largest bar in any British racecourse built in the grandstand area.

Racecourse of the Year would have been unimaginable two years ago. Now it is only a question of when.

Bargain hunters take early value in National market

By Richard Evans

VALUE-SEEKING readers of *The Times* were quick off the mark yesterday to take advantage of the generous ante-post prices being offered against Young Husbands, Rough Quest and Deep Bramble in the Martell Grand National.

Both William Hill and Ladbrokes reported plenty of money for Young Husbands, recommended by Robert Wright in his *Racing Ahead* column yesterday, and were forced to trim Nigel Twiston-Davies's chaser from 20-1 to 16-1 joint-favourite.

Wright also recommended Rough Quest at 25-1. The Baring firm also stood out with their offer of 25-1 against Deep Bramble, my long-range tip for the Antree showpiece, and by the end of business yesterday Paul Nicholls's nine-year-old was 20-1.

Although there was support for Smith's Band, Monsieur Le Cure, Party Politics, Earth Summit and Tartan Tyrant, the trio of horses recommended here yesterday were the only entries to have their prices clipped.

As the big bookmakers look ahead to the biggest betting day of the year, their main concern is the effect of the lottery on turnover.

Will the once-a-year punters who have always had a bet on the National remain loyal, or are they hooked on the lottery?

Mike Dillon, of Ladbrokes, confirmed: "The lottery will have an effect on turnover because the Grand National has traditionally drawn much of its turnover from the once-a-year flusterer who is now gambling every week on the lottery."

"To what degree it is difficult to say and it will depend to a large extent on how the different parties get behind the National to promote it and put it in the forefront of the public's mind. Obviously, we will be doing a

lot to make sure that happens and much depends on press coverage."

With the first running of the Dubai World Cup being staged on March 27, some of the newspaper coverage normally devoted to the National in the run-up to the race looks sure to be taken up by the \$4 million contest.

Corral's Rob Hartnett believes the lottery helped to reduce Grand National turnover by 10 per cent last year. "People always liked the excitement and slightly risqué nature of having a flutter on the National. Now they have got it every week and the National has lost its place a bit in our hearts."

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Andrew Robson has reasonable claims to be considered the best bridge player in the world above the height of 6ft 5in. He had better watch out, though — Wilt Chamberlain, the famed American basketball player of the 1950s, has recently taken up the game. He is 7ft 1in and is known to be useful with his fists. Bob Hamman said: "He ain't very good yet, but who's going to tell him?" Chamberlain's response to the tedious "How's the weather up there?" that tall men receive is to spit on the questioner's head and say: "It's raining."

Robson played this hand well at the Macaulay Pairs:

Dealer West	East-West vulnerable	IMP's
♠ 10 8 6 4	♠ K 5	
♥ 7 5	♥ K Q J 10 9 8 2	
♦ 10 4 2	♦ A K Q 8	
♣ 10 8 7 6	♣ 9 3	

W	N	E	S
Pass	1H	Pass	1S
Pass	2C	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Contract: 3 NT

Lead: Queen of Spades

When you lead into the declarer's suit, it is often correct to lead low from an honour combination. Leading high can produce a blockage.

That would have happened on this hand if East had played low on the queen of spades; in practice, he put in the king. In my view, that was correct — East should have had better spades to lead the queen.

Robson took the queen of spades with the ace, and continued with a low club to the ten. When East showed out

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Polgar leads

After a bad start — she lost the first game — Zsuzsa Polgar, the higher-rated favourite in the women's world championship, has assumed the lead with two easy wins. She leads by 3-2 in her challenge against Xie Jun, of China, the champion. In her first win, Polgar weathered an assault by the champion and finished by trapping her queen. In the second game, Xie Jun mishandled a variation popularised by the Kasparov — Short match of 1993 and was torn apart by White's pair of bishops.

White: Xie Jun

Black: Zsuzsa Polgar

Women's world championship

Fourth game, January 1996

Sicilian Defence

1. e4 c5

2. Nf3 Nc6

3. d4 cxd4

4. Nxd4 Nf6

5. Nc3 Nc6

6. Bg5 Qc7

7. Nf3 Bg7

8. Qd2

9. Bc4

10. Bb3

11. Bc4

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SPORT

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 1996

England may need replacement

Smith injured
in World Cup
warm-up match

BY SIMON WILDE

ROBIN SMITH, the most prolific limited-overs run-scorer in the England World Cup party, may be out of the competition after damaging a groin muscle during his team's first formal practice match, in Lahore yesterday. Smith sustained the injury while holding a brilliant catch in the closing stages of England's 62-run victory over a Lahore City XI at Aitchison College.

Groin strains are notoriously difficult to assess, and there was uncertainty yesterday as to how long Smith might be incapacitated. "We should know more in a day or two," Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, said, "but if the muscle has really gone, then it's a three-week job and Robin would be out of the competition."

Smith was ordered to rest in his hotel room last night while having ice-pack treatment. "I feel very depressed at the moment. I'm very, very low," he said. "I've been told I should be reasonably patient because, at best, it's going to take a short while. That's just devastating for me."

Even if Smith makes a quick recovery, the chance of him playing in England's opening group match, against New Zealand in Ahmedabad next Wednesday, appears small. A serious pull would almost certainly lead to him being replaced, probably either by Mark Ramprakash or Nasser Hussain.

Ramprakash is one of two players — the other is Angus

Fraser, a bowler — on standby for the tournament. On the England tour of South Africa, he again failed to fulfil his promise, although he looked less vulnerable in the one-day matches. Hussain is also match-ready, having been a member of the recent England A tour of Pakistan. Indeed, in view of the enterprising and mature way that he led that side, his stock may now be higher than Ramprakash's.

The England party was uncertain yesterday about the competition rules relating to replacements for injured players, but it is thought that, as long as the request is a reasonable one — as would

Letters 19

seem to be the case in this instance — the organisers would have no objection.

Smith, who is regarded as one of England's weaker fielders, was perhaps guilty of trying too hard yesterday. To complete his catch, he sprinted 20 yards and then dived full length at deep mid-wicket to grasp a skyer hoisted by Manzoor Elahi, the former Pakistan Test player. "I felt it as I dived and that's when I must have pulled the muscle," Smith said. "At this stage, it feels very stiff and very sore. Hopefully, there will be a quick improvement, but, at the moment, it doesn't feel any easier than when I did it."

If Smith, 32, is out of the

World Cup, it would be a doubly cruel blow because he missed the climax of the 1992 competition after slipping a disc.

"This World Cup is going to be my last one and it means everything to me," he said. "From the vibes I was getting from the management during the tour of South Africa, I felt I was quite lucky to be here."

"I wanted to prove people wrong and show everyone I was still good enough to play and do a very good job. For this to happen at an early stage is a major blow. It is a five-week tournament, but I need to keep playing and practising as much as possible to find my form and keep in rhythm."

Despite Smith's excellent record in one-day matches, he was not assured of a place in England's strongest one-day team. Earlier in the day, he had done nothing to change that view by getting out to his first ball. He was caught off an attempted cut against Ali Asad, a teenage fast bowler.

Smith featured in a typical England middle-order collapse: four wickets fell for 19 runs to leave them 86 for five. It started with Hick's dismissal for 38. Thorpe was also out for naught, and Fairbrother scored only five. Earlier, Atherton, the England captain, was also out for five.

The damage was repaired by Stewart, who scored 65, and Russell, 60, in a partnership of 72, and Craig White later hit out effectively with 37 off 38 balls to take England to 247 for eight in their 50 overs.

England had little difficulty defending such a total. Cork claimed two early wickets and White three in an opening spell of four overs as the local team slumped to 63 for six.

Elahi and Mohammad Hussain added 90 in rapid fashion before Smith intervened with his costly catch to give White a fourth wicket. It set the seal on the match and possibly on Smith's World Cup.

SCORES: England 247 for 8 (50 overs); AJ Stewart 65, R C Russell 60, Ali Asad 5-39; Lahore City 181 (44.4 overs, C White 4-19)



Smith crumpled in agony after damaging a muscle in his groin when diving to take a catch during England's warm-up match in Lahore.

Australia will not compensate Sri Lanka

BY SIMON WILDE

GRAHAM HALBISH, the chief executive of the Australian Cricket Board, said yesterday that the World Cup organisers would not receive a cent should they seek compensation from Australia for refusing to play a match in Sri Lanka because of fears for their players' safety.

He dismissed as "kite flying" reports that the Sri Lankan board was looking at the financial obligations of defuncting teams. Sri Lanka are scheduled to play Australia in Colombo on February 17. The West Indies, who have also sought a change of venue after the recent car bomb killed 80 people in the capital, are due to play their qualifying pool

match in the same city on February 26.

Halbush said that he believed that the cancellation losses may be covered by insurance. "We would not entertain in any way any approach by either Sri Lanka or Plocom [the organising committee] on that matter," he said.

Bob Simpson, the Australia coach, said that his players, who are preparing for the tournament in Brisbane, had not been distracted by accusations of cowardice in English and Sri Lankan newspapers for their decision.

A meeting will be held in Calcutta on Saturday between Plocom, the International Cricket Council (ICC) and representatives of the four

visiting countries scheduled to play matches in Sri Lanka to attempt to resolve the dispute over venues. The meeting will be chaired by Sir Clyde Walcott, the ICC chairman, but it may be no more than an informal discussion and there was no sign yesterday of any of the parties softening their stances.

Kenya and Zimbabwe have said that they will fulfil their fixtures on the island, although Peter Chingola, the president of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, said yesterday that his country will not make a final decision until after the meeting on Saturday. The opening ceremony of the World Cup is the next day.

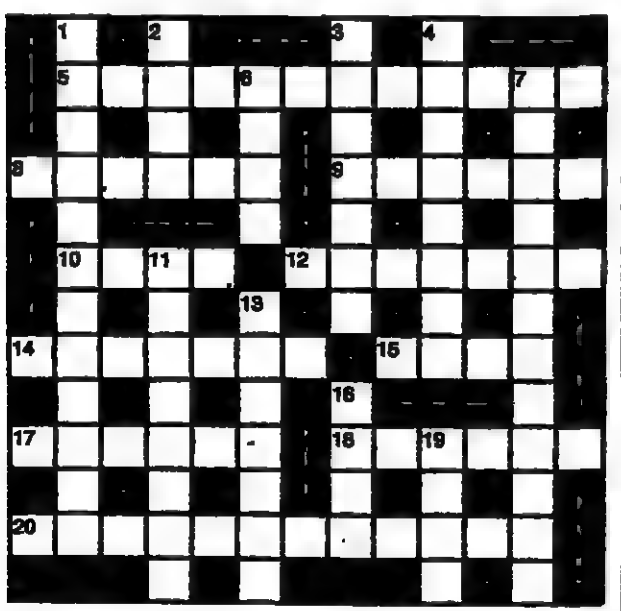
David Shepherd, the England representative on the

12-strong National Grid panel of umpires for the competition, modelled a new look black coat at a wintry Lord's yesterday before flying out to join the festivities in Calcutta. Black was chosen as the best neutral colour for day-night matches.

Steve Durren, the New Zealand umpire, meanwhile was considering withdrawing from two World Cup matches in Sri Lanka in which he is due to stand. "Before Australia and the West Indies withdrew, I was prepared to take the advice of the organisers, but clearly these are serious security concerns and I've had second thoughts," he said yesterday. "I have to say that I'm now very reluctant to go to Sri Lanka."



Shepherd models the new look

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD
No 699 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND

- ACROSS**
- City attractiveness (6,6)
 - Accent; strain (6)
 - Mediaeval freeman (6)
 - Make well; French priest (4)
 - Outshine (7)
 - Greek resinated wine (7)
 - Unit of computer storage (4)
 - Dishonoured (woman); dead (hero) (6)
 - Hole (leg in tooth) (6)
 - Execution order (5,7)
- DOWN**
- Obstruction-negotiating contest (8,4)
 - Swamp; bog (4)
 - Pretend; behave exaggeratedly (4,3)
 - Dishonour, humiliation (8)
 - Call derisively; background noise (4)
 - Cross-dresser (12)
 - "Be bloody, bold, and —" (Vladimir) (8)
 - Not famous; not recognised (7)
 - Blemish; bare rock (4)
 - Small (medicine) bottle (4)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address _____

SOLUTION TO NO 688
ACROSS: 1 Hard done by 8 Pick out 9 Ghost 10 Told 11 Parterre 13 Drive 14 Clerk 16 Eurydice 17 Wasp 20 Monet 21 Atheist 22 Hanky-panky
DOWN: 1 Hop lit 2 Recalcitrant 3 Doom 4 Not bad 5 Big stick 6 Poor relation 7 Streak 12 Vendetta 13 Dreamt 15 Ack-ack 18 Pithy 19 Whip

Top clubs reject Super League

BY JOHN GOODBODY

UEFA and Europe's leading football clubs yesterday agreed to allow the Continent's eight leading nations an automatic second entry into an expanded European Cup but ruled out any move towards a super league.

The unprecedented meeting between the European governing body and clubs, including Arsenal, Manchester United, Bayern Munich, AC Milan and Real Madrid, accepted that, from next season, the European Cup should be expanded to 32 clubs.

The European governing body, which has been under pressure to extend international competition among leading clubs, will work out details of the plan, in which countries such as England, Italy, Germany and Spain would have a second club in the annual tournament. If a club in one of these countries also held the trophy, then the nation would have three entries for the next season.

Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, proposed that the 32 teams in the European Cup would play each other in a preliminary knock-out competition each season to determine the 16 who would take part in the Champions League. The 16 losers would go into the Uefa Cup.

The holders of the trophy and the champions of the 23

best-ranked nations would be entered in the original 32 entries, along with eight more from selected countries granted a second entry.

Frits Ahlstrom, the Uefa media director, said that the formula to decide which clubs should take part had yet to be finalised. However, it would probably be based on their European record over the previous ten years and possibly also on their league placings in that period.

Diary _____ 18
Aspirilla move cleared — 40
Happy as Harry _____ 40

stopwatch experiment to give spectators more value

keep the time, but, in the southern hemisphere, it was realised long ago that it is one duty of which the match official could reasonably be relieved. Part of the climax at important club or representative occasions is, for example, Australia is the crowd counting down the seconds on a ground where the clock is visible.

Each first-division club in the Courage Clubs Championship has been sent a blaxon and stopwatch and asked to provide a location at the side of the pitch where the timekeeper — an off-duty RFU

assessor — will sit. He will take account of injury stoppages, starting the clock to coincide with the commencement of play.

He will also take account of goal kicks that take more than 40 seconds, though that is covered in the laws anyway.

At the same time, the timekeeper will have a second watch, that will keep "running time" — that is, the actual time from the start of each half to full time — so that the results of the experiment can be more accurately analysed.

The first match where the timekeeper can operate will be at Sudbury on Saturday, where Wasps play Sale in the only scheduled first-division encounter.

The delegates were still to

RFU calls time on wasted minutes

David Hands reports on a
stopwatch experiment to
give spectators more value

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Nobody does it better

Life mimics art in town of Cézanne's birth

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE

"HE IS not in," announced the aged caretaker who answered the door of Cézanne's atelier, the studio high above Aix-en-Provence where some of the artist's greatest paintings were produced.

For a long moment it was unclear whether "he" referred to the painter, who died in 1906, or to the museum curator. Perhaps she did not know herself, for the Aixois have a slightly unsettling habit of referring to Cézanne in the present tense.

The exhibition of Paul Cézanne's works opening at the Tate Gallery today is the most comprehensive assembled, confirming Matisse's assessment of the painter as the father of modern art.

A restless and troubled man, Cézanne was often on the move, artistically and geographically, but it is in Aix, and among the vivid colours and contours of the surrounding countryside, that his art still lives.

Cézanne is embedded in the streets of Aix in the form of a trail of brass plaques nailed to the pavement every six feet, leading tourists from the artist's birthplace to his school and the house where he died.

The most evocative of these sights is the Atelier de Laurens, built in 1901. Its curator — who turned out to be a young, enthusiastic North African, far removed



Cézanne's Still Life with Onions hangs in Paris

from the reclusive, irascible Cézanne — opened the door to a scene, heavy with the scent of drying herbs, which is itself a still life: an arranged profusion of easels and brushes, letters and canvases, books and half-finished sketches. Here, you find a fragment of the carpet used as background for a Cézanne still life, a visiting card, a tie stuffed in a drawer.

Designed by Cézanne to catch the maximum amount of light, one wall of the atelier is almost entirely window, next to a narrow trapdoor, 20ft high, which enabled the artist to slide his largest canvases out of the building.

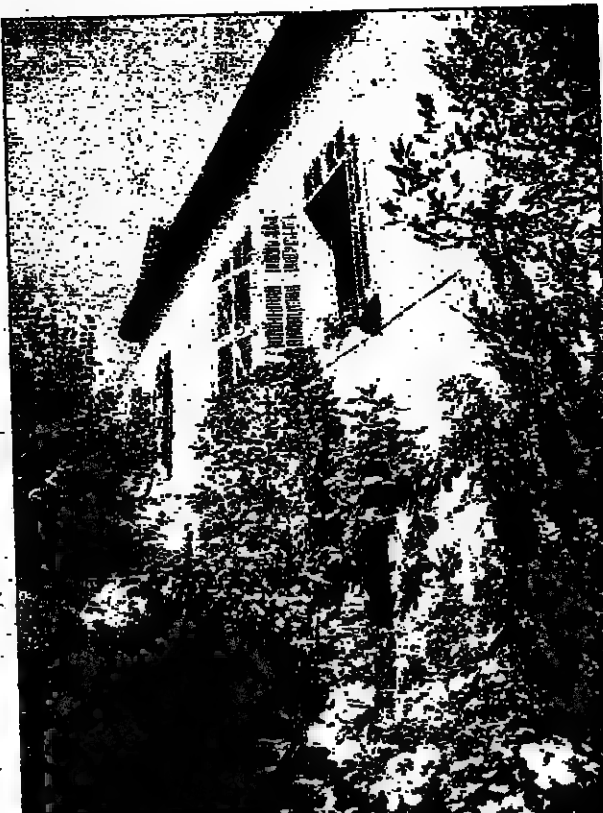
The workshop looks down over Aix and towards the Art river, where Cézanne swam with his childhood friend, Emile Zola, and which be-

came the setting for *Les Grandes Baigneuses*. To the north rises the silhouette of the great Mont Sainte-Victoire, the subject of so many of Cézanne's works, already changing shape and shade in the morning mist.

If Aix provides one view of Cézanne — the classically educated son of a well-to-do family — then the "Sights of Cézanne" tour of the surrounding area, laid on by the local tourist authority, tells a complementary story of an artist indebted to the spectacular qualities of his native land.

"I spend every day in this landscape, with its beautiful shapes. Indeed, I cannot imagine a more pleasant way or place to pass my time," Cézanne wrote to his son in 1906.

Jas de Bouffan, the manor



Cézanne's house in Aix-en-Provence with its atelier where he painted many of his works

house on the outskirts of Aix bought by his father in 1859, was often painted by Cézanne while providing the privacy he craved. The building has been bought by the local authority and will eventually become a museum. Nearby is the vast, imposing Château

Noir, which Cézanne tried without success to buy.

With a cinema, hotel, restaurant and garage all named after him in Aix, one might get the impression that the artist has himself long been a part of the local landscape but, while the in-

habitants of Aix may now talk about him with familiarity and pride, the relationship between Cézanne and his home town was ambivalent, to say the least.

The drama of the countryside and its changing hues were stimulating, but the weather was dreadful, he insisted, alternating between extremes of warmth and cold. The townsfolk were much the same. Many in Aix considered Cézanne *père*, a milliner turned banker, to be a parvenu. Zola was wrong when he dubbed Cézanne a failure after their relationship soured, but he was not alone in that view. The head of the Grandet Museum, where Cézanne first studied art, flatly refused to hang any of his paintings and it was not until 1921, when both were dead, that the museum acquired its first Cézanne.

Zola never realised his mistake, but Aix did. Hence, perhaps, the homage to its most celebrated son.

The huge British interest in Provence is sure to redouble in the wake of the Tate exhibition. The artist would have been surprised and flattered by that, but still more astonished to find that Aix-en-Provence, a place which both inspired and rejected him, has now become *toujours Cézanne*.

Alan Coren, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Letters, page 19
Arts, page 33

German TV in uproar over fake news films

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN television, once regarded as the most staid and narcoleptic in Europe, is in uproar.

The country's most adventurous maker of documentaries has been exposed as a fraud: twenty-two of his scoops were staged with the help of disguised neighbours and friends. Talk show hosts, desperate for new faces, have been falling for confidence tricksters. And another filmmaker has been accused of fabricating drunken scenes among students at a language school in Eastbourne.

Private television channels are engaged in a fierce ratings war with the public channels and have discovered that there is a big audience for snappy news features. Since Germany has not had much snappy news over the past 50 years, there is considerable pressure on television journalists.

Enter Michael Born, the bearded 37-year-old journalist, now under arrest, suddenly emerged as a key supplier of sensational footage to private film companies such as Stern-TV. The company, associated with Stern magazine, supplies private channels like SAT 1 and VOX.

Born was the first to expose the activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Germany, his camera secretly hidden in closed Klan sessions. But the Klansmen were in fact friends of the producer dressed in sheets. Another expose: German hunters slaughtering innocent cats. But the cats killed in grisly close-up were from an animal refuge and had been shot by another of Born's friends.

The trick was repeated in many variations. Sad, exploited child labourers making carpets for the Ikea furniture chain turned out to have been hired by the producer. Drug smugglers, filmed crossing the German-Swiss frontier, turn-

ed out yet again to be friendly actors. Born, a plump almost Rabelaisian figure, has been a freelance filmmaker for more than six years. "We have known him for a long time," Günter Jauch, the Stern-TV chief, said. "He has given us several pieces which were perfectly all right and he was well regarded by big, highly respected networks. That is why we trusted him."

The fraud came to light when the police started to investigate some of the claims made in the films, with a view to capturing the Klansmen and drug traffickers.

Born admits most of the frauds and his lawyer puts the blame squarely on the new German television culture. "There is an unbearable pressure to dramatise television reports," he said.

The problems are not confined to Born. Another documentary-maker for Stern-TV filmed students at an Eastbourne language school apparently enjoying wild parties. The introduction should have made the controllers suspicious: "Smoking pot, dancing, huge quantities of alcohol and sex. Those are the kinds of excesses that are attracting kids to Eastbourne."

The organiser of the language tours, Jürgen Mathes, is taking legal action against the television company, claiming that the students were in fact English and Norwegian, not German.

The most controversial segment of the film was shot in a disquieting unconnected with the school. The criticism, however, is disputed by Herr Jauch and a court ruling is expected next week.

Herr Jauch says: "Despite all the controls, it will always be the case that people try to cheat each other, even in journalism. There is no such thing as 100 per cent security in this matter."

Bonn opposition puts monetary union in firing line

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

GERMANY'S opposition Social Democrats took the first step yesterday towards making an important election issue out of European monetary union by challenging Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, to revise the Maastricht treaty and include a new chapter on job creation.

Regional elections are to be held in three federal states next month and they will be the first test of the political volatility of the single-currency issue. The Social Democrat leadership has censured some posters on EMU, but the Baden-Württemberg party has approved a poster saying: "Stability and jobs have priority. So — postpone EMU!"

Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul, the party's Shadow Minister for Europe, attacked the Chancellor yesterday for what she called unforgivable inactivity. She made clear that introducing an employment chapter was the main goal of the opposition, that the party wanted a delay in introducing a single currency — and favoured a resolutely federal and "social" Europe. Many



Lafontaine tone changing under new party leader

observers feared the Social Democrats, who had announced their intention to make EMU the key election issue in 1998, were appealing to the worries of Germans about losing the mark.

But under Oskar Lafontaine, the party's new leader, and Frau Wiecek-Zeul the tone has changed. The party supports the Government's insistence on meeting the strict criteria for EMU entry. But it also insists on a comprehensive job-creation scheme.

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials — not the first things to spring to mind when you think about sending someone a gift. But for mothers in Bosnia who have almost nothing left with which to care for their children, these basic essentials mean the world. And they can be found in each baby box sent with a donation to a charity in a despairing mother in Bosnia, via British charity Feed the Children.

A peace in Bosnia is trumpeted in the corridors of power, a young mother sheltering in a tractor cabin in north-west Bosnia knows what the really important issue is tonight: how to keep her shivering and vulnerable toddler safe from disease and infection in appalling conditions and biting cold. She has been living on the edge of life since October, when she was forced to flee her home in Velika Kladusa — with only five minutes to pack a carrier bag — and huddle with 22,000 other people along five kilometres of road in Klupjesko valley.

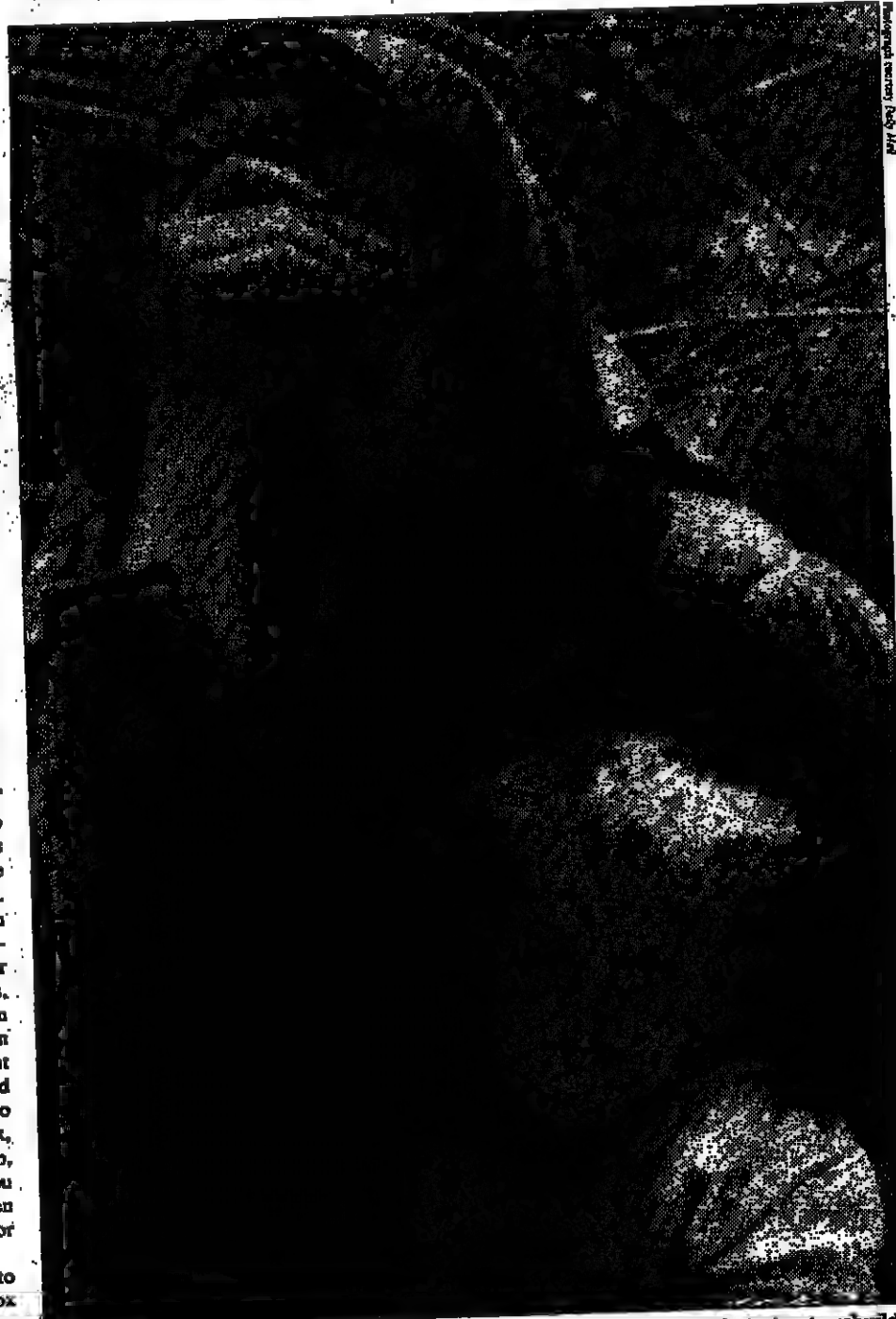
She is one of 14,000 mothers in Bosnia and Croatia who have received baby boxes full of the basic essentials they need to help protect their children from the filthy conditions in which they are surviving: clean nappies and baby cream to soothe burning nappy rash, soap to wash urine-soaked babygroes and dirty nappies, antiseptic for cuts, disinfectant for the muddy floors of their shelters...

business surrounding these mothers and children, saying "we know how hard it is for you, we care what happens to you," explains Gaynor Jones, Volunteer Co-ordinator at Feed the Children. "They take it very personally."

"I wanted to send some love with all the practical things in a baby box."

So do the individuals who take up Feed the Children's invitation to send a message along with their £30 donation. "Seeing those mothers in Bosnia on the television, clinging to their children for dear life in appalling conditions, I wanted to do more than send a donation," says Karin Weatherup, who has sent a baby box. "I wanted to send a message. I wanted to say to the mother opening the box, 'You're doing an amazing job, and my family think about you every night'. Feed the Children enabled me to do that, for which I'm very grateful."

Jillie Griffin was drawn to the idea of sending a baby box to Bosnia for the same reason. "I just wanted to send some love with all the practical



Despite the Dayton peace initiative, mothers and young children in Bosnia trying to rebuild their lives need even the most basic essentials to succeed.

A message from you this winter would mean so much to a Bosnian mother.

things in a baby box. It was that personal involvement which really appealed to me."

Does peace in Bosnia make a difference?

In many areas of Bosnia, peace simply means that the shooting has stopped. But the problem is that whole communities have been chased from their homes, and are either too afraid to return or will find only a scorched patch of earth or bombed-out shell where their home used to be.

"There are many truly lost people," says Stewart Crocker, Deputy Director at Feed the Children. "We must ensure they are not forgotten amidst the news of the Dayton peace initiative. Their needs are tremendous, especially those of the mothers and young children. They are trying to move forward, trying to rebuild their lives."

"People in Britain can take one major worry from these mothers by giving them what they need to care for their little ones — a Feed the Children baby box."



Children in Bosnia and Croatia have suffered enough. You can help them recover.

From me to you and your child

Inside each box, packed by volunteers at Feed the Children's aid supply centre in Reading, is a message from the person who made it possible. For the exhausted, often traumatised woman who receives it, it is a potent sign that somewhere, somebody is thinking of her, and her efforts to protect her child. "It's like a voice breaking through the isolation and hope-

SENT WITH LOVE FROM A FRIEND

Send £30 to send a baby box to a Bosnian mother and baby. If you would like to send a message to a Bosnian mother, please call 0990 600610 or complete and return this form.

If you would like to send a message to a Bosnian mother, please enclose your donation and Feed the Children will put it inside your baby box.

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I enclose a cheque for £ _____ (total amount) made payable to Feed the Children.

OR Please debit £ _____ from my ☐ Visa ☐ Access ☐ Switch

Card number

Last three digits of Switch card no. Switch issue no.

Expiry date / /

Signature

Name (caps)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

If you would like to send a message to a Bosnian mother, please send it with your donation and we will put it in your baby box. Please send to: Feed the Children, Dept. 433D, FREEPOST, Reading RG1 1BR.

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Mystery Boeing crash off Dominican Republic leaves Germany in mourning

189 killed as tourist jet plunges into Caribbean

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

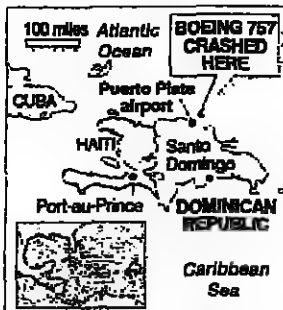
INVESTIGATORS were last night working on the theory that a crashed Boeing 757 airliner suffered an electrical or engine failure before plunging into the Caribbean, killing the 189 people on board, mainly German tourists.

After the Turkish-owned jet took off from the Dominican Republic, it climbed through 7,000ft and accelerated to 275mph before appearing to go into a sharp turn and head back towards land. It plunged into the sea 13 miles offshore, breaking up on impact.

There was no mayday call from the pilots, possibly because at the time of the crash they would have been changing radio frequencies from the local airport at Puerto Plata to the main air traffic control centre at San Juan.

The five British airlines, which together operate a total of 39 Boeing 757 twinjets, were last night anxiously awaiting an indication of what caused the crash. The jet had been leased to a local airline to ferry German holidaymakers to and from the Caribbean's fastest-growing destination.

Although the German tour operator which had chartered the holiday jet suggested that the crash may have been caused by lightning, operators of the 693 aircraft of the same type now in service were sceptical. The jet has one of the



best safety records of all modern airliners and has proved itself capable of withstanding the most violent storms. There was no suggestion the weather was exceptional at the time, but a sudden squall could have resulted in hail or violent down-draughts which are known as "windshear".

Had the jet suffered an engine failure, it could have turned automatically towards the "dead" engine, appearing to radar operators to be trying to return to land. Then, if the pilots were busy in resolving the immediate problem or the jet was hit at the worst possible moment by the

squall, it could have been forced suddenly lower, smashing wing-tip first into the sea. Rafts were spotted in the shark-infested sea, possibly because they are stored in the doors and would have deployed automatically as the jet broke up.

Flight 301 was filled with German tourists who had spent one or two weeks in the booming resorts of the Dominican Republic. The jet had been "wet leased" — with both flight deck and cabin crew provided — to the Dominican-based airline, Alas Nacionales, by the Turkish charter airline BirgenAir.

Built in 1985, the 757 had originally been used by Eastern Airlines in the USA. It was then sold to a number of other carriers before being bought by BirgenAir last year.

Like most other charter flights from Europe to the Dominican Republic, the plan was for flight 301 to put down at Gander in Newfoundland to refuel on the "great circle" route over Britain on its way to Frankfurt and Berlin.

The Dominican Republic —

part of the island of Hispaniola which was discovered by Columbus in 1492 and which it now shares with Haiti — has had one of the most phenomenal growth rates of any holiday destination. This year an estimated 100,000 Britons will visit it — 33 per cent up on last year — of which 50,000 will book with Thomson. Its main attraction, apart from some of the best beaches in the Caribbean, is its cheapness. A two-week all-inclusive holiday costs about £850 per person — £500 cheaper than most similar package holidays.

Oger Tours, the German tour operator which organised the flights, picked the Turkish charter because it was cheaper and enabled them to save at least £100 per person.

One other theory certain to be examined by the investigation team is that a bomb could have brought down the jet. In 1994 a bomb hidden on an Alas Nacionales commuter plane exploded as it took off from Colon in Panama, killing all 21 people on board.

British Airways has 40 of the aircraft in regular service and it is also a work-horse for charter airlines like Britannia, Monarch, Air 2000 and Airtours.

At the end of December, an American Airlines Boeing 757 crashed into a mountain in Colombia after an apparent navigational error. This is the only other recorded crash involving the jet since it came into service in 1983.



The Turkish-registered Boeing 757 which crashed



Grief-stricken relatives of passengers leaving Berlin's Schönefeld airport

Aristide bows out in Haiti

Port-au-Prince: René Prévail was sworn in yesterday as president of Haiti, inheriting a country so worn by grinding poverty that even he has been sceptical he can do much to ease the country's collective pain.

Outgoing President Jean-Bertrand Aristide embraced Mr Prévail, then placed the red-and-blue presidential sash over his left shoulder. Mr Prévail, 53, lacks the support enjoyed by his predecessor and his feeble popularity may be further weakened when he adopts austerity measures needed to attract foreign aid to the country. (AP)

Pakistan renews expulsion plea

Pakistan is stepping up pressure on Britain to expel Altaf Hussain, the leader of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), who runs a war in Karachi by telephone, fax and Internet from a small office in north London. (Christopher Thomas writes). He has applied for political asylum. Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, called him a cowardly rat and mass murderer. He is, however, undisputed leader of 22 million Mohajirs in Sindh province.

FBI finds three stolen paintings

New York: Police recovered three stolen paintings believed to be two Picassos and a Pissarro, worth \$15 million (£10 million), from the basement of a block of flats in Long Island City. A Kennedy Airport cargo handler and a man thought to be his accomplice have been arrested. The men were charged with violating a federal interstate shipment statute and grand larceny. (AP)

Lesotho King is sworn in

Maseru: Lesotho's King Letsie, 32, has been sworn in to succeed his father, King Moshoeshoe II who died in a car crash. Letsie was king once for five years before he was forced to abdicate by regional states worried about stability. He undertook to abstain from involving the monarchy in politics or with any political parties or groups. (Reuters)

Happy as a pig

Stockholm: A vet pronounced 2,500 pigs drunk when they were found staggering around a farm, fighting or lying on the ground squealing after their milky feed had fermented and turned to alcohol. (AP)

Japanese premier admits cash link

FROM PERRIGINE HODSON
IN TOKYO

THE Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, admitted yesterday that he received political contributions from three organisations owed money by housing loan companies which the Government plans to bail out with taxpayers' money.

His admission, in parliament's budget committee session, will heighten public opposition to the bail-out scheme, costing at least 685 billion yen (£4.2 billion) from public funds.

Hiroshi Yamada, of the main opposition party, Shinshinto, said Mr Hashimoto's political fund-raising group received 1.05 million yen from FVM, a vending machine company, and others, while he was Finance Minister in 1990. At the peak of the "bubble" economy, Mr Hashimoto ordered financial institutions to restrict loans to property companies, triggering huge loans to them by housing loan corporations — outside government control.

Many believe his action contributed directly to the bad-loan problem weighing down Japan's financial system. It amounts to at least 4,405 trillion yen, 95 per cent of which is irrecoverable.

Mr Hashimoto has defended his Government's scheme but many believe losses may reach 3 trillion yen, meaning the contribution by taxpayers will be two trillion yen — or about £100 for every man, woman, and child.

Jiang reins in military over Taiwan

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

PRESIDENT Jiang Zemin of China is reported to be uneasy about jingoist leaders in the People's Liberation Army who are urging tough action against Taiwan.

According to yesterday's South China Morning Post, Hong Kong's leading English-language newspaper, Mr Jiang has warned his more gung-ho generals that an invasion of Taiwan would imperil Chinese reunification with Hong Kong next year and with Macau in 1999. Any such steps, Mr Jiang is quoted as saying, must wait until both reunifications are complete.

The generals are said to have told Mr Jiang, who is also chairman of the Central Military Commission, that China should not delay its plans for Taiwan, which they feared would soon take possession of better weapons.

Although in recent weeks Mr Jiang and other party leaders have urged the military to remain obedient to the party, the paper reported that

the bellicose military attitude towards Taiwan "has more support in Peking than Mr Jiang would like".

Chinese forces opposite Taiwan are mobilising for military manoeuvres intended to intimidate the Nationalist stronghold as it prepares for its first presidential election next month. Senior military analysts in Hong Kong concur on the mounting Chinese pressure on Taiwan, reports of which are being fuelled by leaks from Peking designed to

what is referred to as "travelers". The analysts, however, think the impending war games are not a prelude to a mainland invasion of Taiwan, which they regard as highly unlikely.

In Washington, William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, said that he was "concerned but not alarmed" at the mounting Chinese pressure on Taiwan, reports of which are being fuelled by leaks from Peking designed to

Broadcasting ban eased

Taipei: Taiwan yesterday eased a decades-old ban and allowed Chinese films and television programmes to be shown here. The move was part of an effort to ease tensions with China, which has increased over Peking's suspicion that Taiwan is moving towards independence. It also reflected a growing self-confidence on an island that previously treated such

films as Communist propaganda. Up to ten Chinese films a year can be shown in theatres and Chinese soap operas can fill up to 30 per cent of a network's air time. Taiwan has gradually been relaxing the ban. Producers have been making films and soap operas on the mainland and a few award-winning Chinese movies have been shown with permission. (AP)

Red Cross accuses Serbs of massacre

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

AT LEAST 3,000 people captured during the fall of Srebrenica are dead and the Bosnian Serb authorities are responsible for the events there last July, a senior official at the International Committee of the Red Cross said yesterday.

Jean de Courten, the director of operations, told journalists that the Red Cross had repeatedly presented a list of the 3,000 to Pale over the past five months, without response.

"I would like to make it clear that the Bosnian Serb authorities have a serious responsibility for what happened in Srebrenica, and that I am convinced... these people are no longer alive. This has been clearly stated to Mr Karadzic [the Bosnian Serb leader]. And, in addition, that the information provides us with the conviction that it has been done by armed elements and the police forces of the Bosnian Serbs."

Mr de Courten, who was visibly bitter, met Bosnian Serb leaders, including Radovan Karadzic, in the Bosnian Serb stronghold late last week. Only 200 people from Srebrenica have been found so far in Bosnian Serb prisons.

Most of the Red Cross's information has been pieced together from interviews with relatives and cross-checked with other sources. The Red Cross has compiled a list of another 5,000 who went missing after they tried to flee the besieged enclave. The Red Cross has overall responsibility under the Dayton peace accords to trace thousands of people missing after four years of war.

Mr de Courten also criticised Muslims and Serbs for failing to respect the Dayton agreements on releasing detainees. Both sides have hidden prisoners, and he accused the Bosnian Government of restricting access to them.

Archbishop refuses to let bygones be bygones

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN CAPE TOWN

THE appointment of Archbishop Desmond Tutu to head the Truth and Reconciliation Commission investigating apartheid crimes has elevated the status of the Nobel laureate to dizzying new heights. A newspaper cartoon recently went so far as to depict him walking on water.

The Anglican primate, however, is wisely not promising miracles when work begins next month. In an interview with *The Times*, he talked candidly about his challenging mission and in the process underlined why there is so much uncertainty

surrounding the work of the commission.

"We ought not to speak glibly, as people have tended to do, who say 'why should you have a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, you are just going to be opening up wounds and stirring up emotions and that we should just let bygones be bygones,'" Archbishop Tutu said. He noted the failure to address the horrors of the turn-of-the-century Boer War. "The trouble is, dealing with it as glibly as that, they can never be bygones and, as you know, those haunting words 'those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it'."

The legislation governing the com-

mission says it should promote national unity and reconciliation that transcend the divisions of the past. This should be done by establishing a picture of human rights abuses committed between March 1, 1960 and December 6, 1993.

Those who make "full disclosures" may apply for amnesty from prosecution. This can be refused, thus paving the way for prosecutions. The panel can summon witnesses and refusing to answer questions can lead to a two-year prison sentence. The panel can also recommend compensation.

The merit of the commission and its direction have been contested. On one side are those who have decried it as

nothing more than a "witchhunt" that will hinder reconciliation. At the other end are those who say political horse-trading has weighted legislation in favour of the perpetrator.

Archbishop Tutu, 64, is principally responsible for finding a balance and dispensing absolution accordingly. He concedes that the commission will be unable to get through all the cases: there are estimates of 100,000. There is also the issue of crimes committed outside the country. If a person admits to crimes outside South Africa, can that evidence be used under another legal system? The clergyman admits he has no idea: "It is outside our competence."



Tutu: determined not to forget the past

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THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 1996

Tub-thumping populist raises Right's standard

Ecstatic Buchanan deals Gramm crippling blow

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AN ELATED Pat Buchanan proclaimed himself the Republican Right's standard-bearer yesterday after dealing Phil Gramm, his conservative rival, a crippling blow in the opening battle of this year's American presidential race.

The outspoken television commentator who grievously wounded President Bush in the 1992 New Hampshire primary, produced another giant-killing performance in Tuesday night's Louisiana caucuses, defeating Mr Gramm in a state the senator believed he had locked up.

Through days of furious tub-thumping populist campaigning Mr Buchanan, co-leader of a "new coalition" of anti-abortion activists, pro-

tectionists, isolationists and gambling foes in a deeply conservative southern state. He was rewarded with 13 delegates to this August's Republican convention. Mr Gramm won eight.

It was "a victory for a new conservatism of the heart... a conservatism of faith, family and country", Mr Buchanan said. "The Battle of the Bayou is over and it has ended in a great triumph for the Buchanan Brigades." It was also a stunning setback for Mr Gramm, one from which this hugely ambitious but little loved Texas senator may find it impossible to recover.

He had pressed Louisiana to hold the nation's first caucuses, believing a thumping

victory in his neighbouring state would give him valuable momentum before next Monday's Iowa caucuses. He had worked Louisiana long and hard. Its Republican establishment had rigged the caucus rules in his favour and all the leading Republican candidates save Mr Buchanan had stayed away, preferring to concentrate on Iowa.

Reporters who followed him on to his aircraft after the first exit polls said that he sat in "stunned, disconsolate silence and absently plunged an index finger into an armchair ashtray". After a few minutes, he looked up and said simply: "Can't do a damn thing about it now."

Mr Gramm, who has spent

more than two years and \$20 million (£13 million) on the campaign trail, gamely toured yesterday's breakfast television shows, insisting that he could rebound in Iowa thanks to a strong grassroots organisation; but that is highly questionable.

Even before Louisiana, he was third or fourth in most Iowa polls and uncomfortably short of funds. His credibility with Iowa's powerful Christian conservatives and potential contributors has been gravely damaged. Other Iowans resent his failure to uphold Iowa's right to hold the first presidential caucuses. Compounding his woes, he was so busy campaigning in Louisiana on Tuesday that he missed a Senate debate on a farm Bill backed by Iowa's many farmers that went down by a single vote.

Mr Buchanan said that he had the credibility to win the nomination. He is certainly on a roll and should perform creditably in his old stomping ground of New Hampshire on February 20, but few analysts seriously believe he can capture the nomination.

The real beneficiary of Mr Gramm's humiliation appears to be Robert Dole, who has always feared his Senate colleague much more than he has Mr Buchanan.

Beaten senator smiles on in Iowa

FROM TOM RHODES IN DES MOINES

Mr Gramm was always known as "Mr. Relentless", the most focused, disciplined and unforgiving member of the Republican presidential pack.

Subdued by a crushing defeat in Louisiana less than 24 hours before, Phil Gramm, the Texas senator, still managed to retain a smug optimism yesterday as he arrived in Iowa for the first real test of

the 1996 campaign. With the smell of the vanquished still clinging to his coat-tails, the Republican stood before the state capitol in Des Moines to assure faithful Iowans that he would not quit now.

For all his unpopularity in the country as a whole, his poor showing among the religious Right in Louisiana and his absence from the farm Bill vote in Washington, Mr Gramm still has a strong following among the highly

agricultural inhabitants of this state. His state machine is strong and, unlike certain Republican colleagues, he has devoted much time to the homes and pig roasts of Iowa, preaching "kitchen table" economics on a grand scale.

On Monday, about 120,000 Republicans will gather at 2,041 party precinct meetings to choose their presidential nominee. Experts believe that Mr Gramm will be among the top three names.



John Miranda holds a gun at a former colleague's head but was later killed by police

Hostage escapes gunman's vengeance

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN HONOLULU

FOR six tense hours, police and a live television audience in Hawaii watched as a sacked worker, who had already shot his former supervisor, stood with a shotgun barrel taped to a colleague's head with his finger taped to the trigger.

"It is going to end with a gun bang," John Miranda promised before he launched into a final 60-second countdown — 59, 58, 57...

When the count reached 15, Tom McNeil, the hostage, tore away from the tape and grabbed the barrel. Miranda fired twice, missing, but police marksmen opened fire, shooting him dead.

"We had to do what we had to do," said Michael Nakamura, the police chief, adding that any chance of resolving Tuesday's ordeal peacefully ended when Miranda began his countdown.

Miranda, 28, died about half an hour after the drama outside the waterproofing business where he once worked. Mr McNeil, 30, was left with scratches, while Guy George, 39, the supervisor who had been shot in the leg earlier, was in hospital.

The confrontation began when Miranda returned to the Seal Master of Hawaii offices with the words: "Good morning, guys, you remember me?"

Madonna defies critics



Madonna: Eva Perón has become role model

New York's Madonna, having discovered that Argentina is less indulgent to Hollywood versions of history than some other countries, has attacked critics of her forthcoming role as Eva Perón (Quentin Letts writes).

The American singer, whom some Argentines consider unsuitable to play Perón in a film version of *Evita*, called a press conference to say that she was hurt by the reaction to her arrival in Argentina to make the biographical film. She said: "Form your opinions after you have seen the movie."

She said that Perón, whom many Argentines almost

worship, had become a role model for her. "I am full of admiration for her. She came from nothing to have such influence over the country."

Madonna's announcement, part publicity stunt, included an appeal to ardent Peronists to allow the film to be made without protest.

Peronist loyalists say the wife of the former Argentinian leader should not be played in the \$60 million (£39 million) film by a woman named after the mother of Christ, who has appeared in rock concerts in skimpy outfits, singing of lust. Slogans such as "Evita Lives! Get out Madonna!" have appeared on walls in Buenos Aires.

Pope hits at Latin America's Protestant invasion

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN GUATEMALA CITY

DIRECTLY confronting the challenge to his Church's traditional dominance in Central America, the Pope has accused Protestant missionaries of sowing "confusion and uncertainty" among Roman Catholics.

On his first visit to Central America in 13 years, the Pope devoted the second day of his stop in Guatemala to a series of reminders that the region had been Catholic for centuries and that many had given their lives for the Church.

The Pope arrived later in Nicaragua with a message of reconciliation for a country still scarred by the civil war that ended in 1990. He travels to El Salvador today.

Protestant evangelical churches in

Central America have surged in membership in recent years, worrying Catholic leaders. About 30 per cent of Guatemala's 10.7 million people now identify themselves as Protestants — the largest percentage of non-Catholics in any Central American country.

The poor and Indians may be most in need of guidance from Catholic clergy, the Pope said in an evening prayer service in a Guatemala City park on Tuesday. He said they were the most affected by the "proliferation of sects and new religious groups that generate confusion and uncertainty among Catholics."

Security broke down momentarily as the Pope arrived behind the altar for evening Mass in Guatemala City. Scores of enthusiastic Guatemalans broke through police lines to rush

toward the pontiff as he stepped out of the vehicle. As the papal entourage walked up the steps of the outdoor altar, people in the 100,000-strong crowd even knocked against the Pope's chief bodyguard while others pounded on the Pope's windows.

After the Mass, the pontiff hugged young Indian boys and girls and blessed other Indians who mounted the altar. One man held a sheep and a couple carried a basket with a newborn baby in it. Others brought native plants and tropical flowers to be blessed. The Pope displayed one of his brightest smiles of the day as he met with the handful of worshippers.

The pontiff began his day by following the path of Catholic pilgrims, travelling to Esquipulas and visiting the basilica of the Black Christ, a 400-

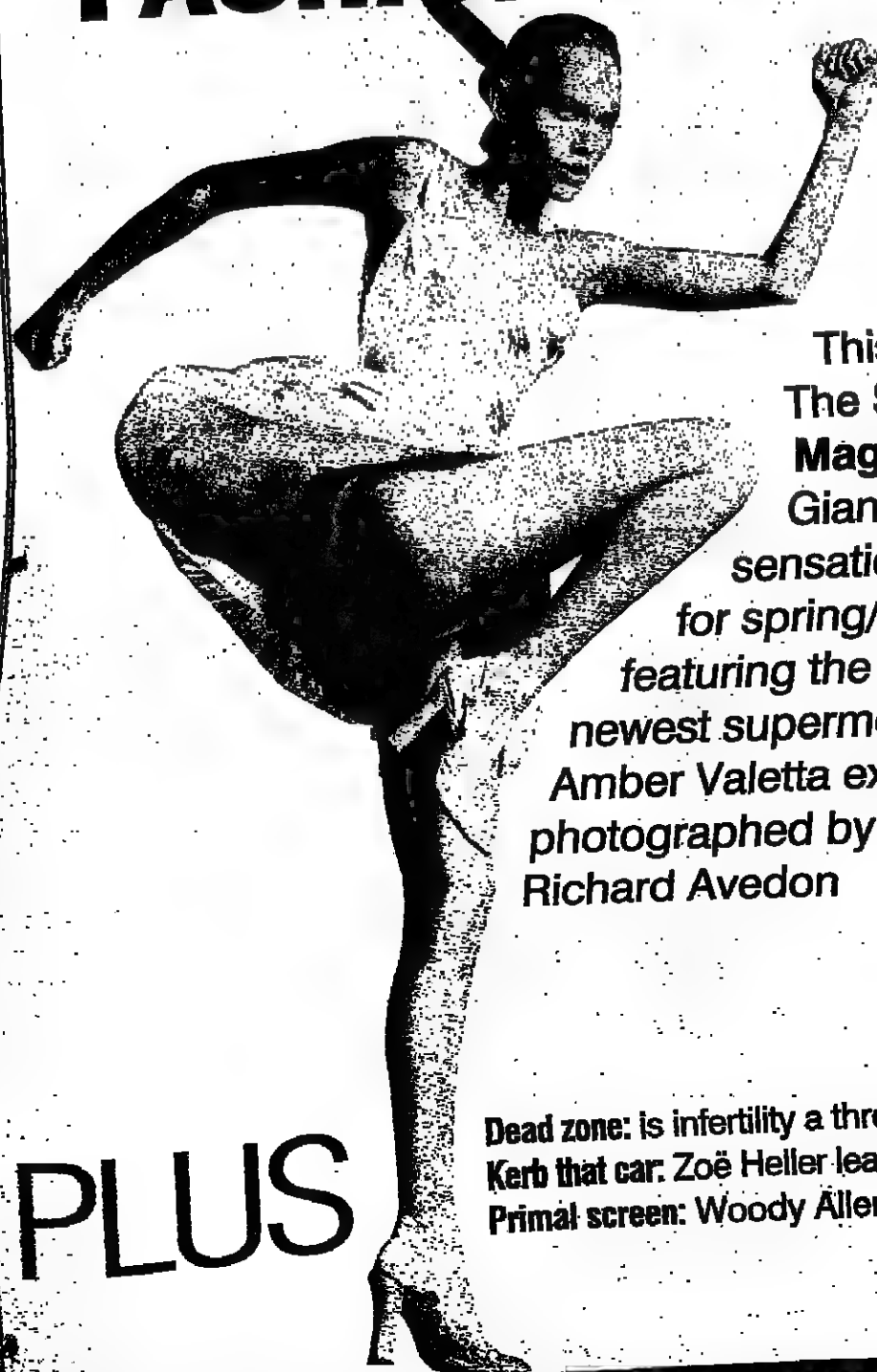
year-old wooden image said to work miraculous healings. It attracted 1.2 million visitors last year.

He cut short his visit there by nearly three hours, however, and returned to Guatemala City. Rain and fog that earlier delayed landing of the Vatican press corps aircraft for two hours was closing in, and could have blocked the Pope from leaving if he waited any longer, officials said.

The change in travel plans had nothing to do with the 75-year-old Pope's health, a Vatican spokesman said. The trip is the Pope's first since he was bedridden by flu at Christmas.

The Pope suggested that a peace process begun in Esquipulas — the scene of 1986 peace accords that helped to end civil wars in Nicaragua and El Salvador — was yet unfinished.

THE SUNDAY TIMES FASHION PREVIEW



VERSACE'S LATEST COLLECTION REVEALED

This weekend, The Sunday Times Magazine unveils Gianni Versace's sensational collection for spring/summer '96, featuring the world's newest supermodel Amber Valetta exclusively photographed by Richard Avedon

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The bullet that paralysed a diplomat

Graeme Gibson's work in Nairobi ended when armed car-jackers shot him. Emma Wilkins finds out how he and his wife are dealing with disability

As he drove home through the dark streets of Nairobi, British diplomat Graeme Gibson knew he was being followed. Looking carefully in the rearview mirror of his Land Rover Discovery, he watched as a battered Peugeot with two men inside shadowed his every move.

His memory of that night before Christmas is vivid. He tried to shake off his pursuers but was suddenly conscious of their car accelerating and drawing up alongside. A man leant out and fired two shots. The second hit Mr Gibson in the neck, missing a vital artery by a millimetre, but with devastating consequences.

"I knew immediately that I was paralysed. My foot went down on the accelerator and I remember trying desperately to get it off but I couldn't move it," he says.

The car slewed across the road and hit a brick wall. Because his foot was still stuck on the pedal, the car was beginning to fill with fumes. All the doors were locked, in accordance with Foreign Office security advice to diplomats.

"I can remember a crowd gathering around the car but they couldn't get me out because I couldn't move. Someone had to throw a brick through the back window to get me out. I was dragged over the back seats by a man who had seen the shooting. He cradled my head in his lap until the police car arrived and took me to hospital."

Mr Gibson, 43, had been just minutes from home in one of Nairobi's prosperous suburbs when he was attacked.

His wife, Pamela, who also works for the Foreign Office in Nairobi, was told about the shooting in a telephone call from a passerby who had helped in the rescue.

"I didn't know what was going on. I thought it might have been some kind of a joke. I jumped in the car and drove

covertly cars, driven by diplomats from most nations, are popular targets because of their high black-market value.

The bullet entered his neck on the right side, severing his spinal cord and leaving him paralysed from the chest down. The bullet is now lodged in a vertebra on the left

side, but surgery to remove it is too dangerous and could lead to further paralysis. Mr Gibson was flown home for tests at St Thomas' Hospital before being moved to Stoke Mandeville spinal injuries unit. He has no feeling in his legs and lower arms, but some sensation in his shoulders. It could take months before doctors know the permanent extent of his injuries. He has only just learnt how to sit in a wheelchair.

Occupational therapists have now devised attachments which fix on to his hands above the knuckles, including a toothbrush, hairbrush and spatula. "He wanted to be able to do a barbecue, so they devised a spatula attachment to flip over the burgers," Mrs Gibson says.

The couple, who have been married for eight years, are determined to be positive. "Just one millimetre's difference and the bullet could have gone through his vocal cord or a main artery, so it could have been worse," Mrs Gibson says. "His spinal cord is severed so he will never walk again. But he's still very much the same old Graeme — he laughs and gets irascible and frustrated just like he used to."

The couple are hopeful that he may regain some use in his thumb and forefinger, which would allow him a degree of independence. "When I stroke



Graeme Gibson (second from left) with his brothers and mother on his wedding day: he used to be a keen golfer, tennis player and rugby fanatic

his hand, there is some feeling in the index finger and thumb," says Mrs Gibson. "If he could pick up a fork to feed himself, or be able to tap on a computer, the difference would be enormous."

Dundee-born Mr Gibson used to be a keen golfer, and had just taken up tennis again after a ten-year break. A self-confessed rugby fanatic, he is a member of the Hash House Harriers, an international group largely made up of expats which he describes as

"a jogging club that drinks". Mr Gibson admits that he has not fully taken in the consequences of his injuries: "It hasn't really hit me psychologically yet. I want to get on with the rehabilitation and find out what I can do," he says.

Mr Gibson has two daughters, Jenny, aged 17, and Ellen, 15, from his first marriage to an American diplomat. The two families arranged to be posted to Kenya together so that the girls could see their

father regularly. Mr Gibson's first wife had arrived in Nairobi just a month before the Gibsons began work last year.

W e had been working towards this for such a long time and it had finally all come together," Mrs Gibson says.

The couple have been overwhelmed by the response from friends and colleagues across the world. "Faxes have just flooded in from every conti-

nent," Mrs Gibson says. "I've had loads of messages from businessmen in Kenya and Britain thanking me for the work I did in the trade department. It shows that the job does have an impact."

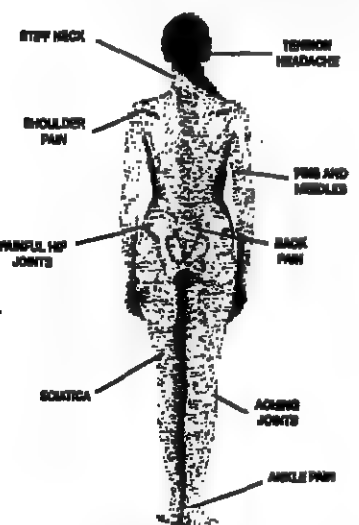
Mr Gibson's salary will be paid for the next six months and the Foreign Office has said it hopes he will be able to return to work — possibly from home. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has visited his hospital bedside. The future for Mrs Gibson

is equally uncertain, but another foreign posting is almost certainly ruled out.

Despite the shooting, Mr Gibson's love of Africa is as strong as ever. "I'd love to say I joined the Foreign Office to serve my country, but I'm afraid it was the desire for travel," says Mr Gibson. "I don't regret joining. I was just unlucky. We've had some wonderful times and met some wonderful people. I wouldn't take back a minute of it — well, maybe just 30 seconds."

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FOREIGN BODY

THE SECRET LIFE OF ROBERT MAXWELL
BY RUSSELL DAVIES



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- THE BACK-ROOM DIPLOMACY WHICH TOOK HIM TO THE HEART OF WORLD AFFAIRS

Who make the best surgeons in today's operating theatres?

Through the keyhole

IN THE past, the more enthusiastic medical students used to spend hours practising tying knots. They exercised their skill by knot-tying in confined spaces and without looking at the thread.

All that activity was to perfect their operating skills so that, in years to come, they could make quick and competent surgeons, capable of tying off bleeding arteries before their patients became exsanguinated.

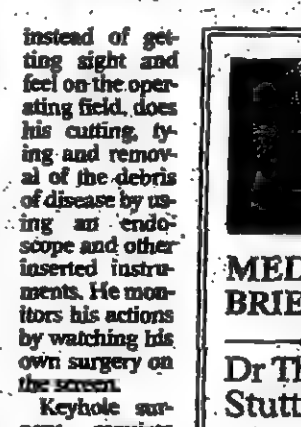
These exercises were not only to improve their performance in the simple art of knot-tying, but to develop their sense of touch.

With the advent of keyhole surgery, sensitive fingers are no longer so useful. In minimally invasive surgery the diseased organs are not exposed and seen in three dimensions nor are they felt by carefully nurtured fingers, but they are only viewed on a flat television screen as a two-dimensional image.

Meanwhile the surgeon, instead of getting sight and feel on the operating field, does his cutting, tying and removal of the debris of disease by using an endoscope and other inserted instruments. He monitors his actions by watching his own surgery on the screen.

Keyhole surgery, requires quite different manual techniques from those which a surgeon learnt in his youth and which he has been perfecting ever since. A surgeon's judgment, or success in mastering the new craft.

The *Journal Hospital Doctor* has recently reported on a study undertaken in



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttard

acquired over years of experience, his basic clinical skills and his pre-clinical knowledge are an essential foundation for keyhole surgery, but the type of dexterity required is different and relies on finely honed hand-eye co-ordination.

It is likely that some surgeons will never succeed in mastering the new craft.

The *Journal Hospital Doctor* has recently reported on a study undertaken in

Washington at the University of Maryland. Laboratory. Skilled surgeons investigated the suggestion that a student who had good hand-eye co-ordination, and was therefore a natural master of video games, would also be one who would excel at keyhole surgery.

Forty students were filmed as each of them undertook 100 hours of simulated laparoscopic techniques (keyhole surgery in the abdomen).

The experiment showed that the initial premise was sound: the better the students were at video games the faster they were to master endoscopic surgical techniques.

Being able to use the tools of the trade isn't the only quality of a good surgeon. The skills are far more complex — which is just as well, because one of the examining surgeons found that his own young schoolchildren were considerably faster than he was in acquiring any new technique.

Danger in a wine bottle



WHEN British tourist Charlotte Common, 55, went to Egypt recently she must have discounted anecdotes about terrorists, and she would never have considered the possibility of dying as a result of a visit to a supermarket.

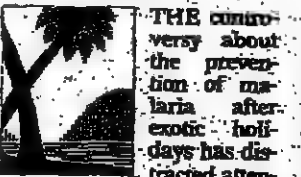
Mrs Common bought a bottle of apparently wholesome red wine, but later lapsed into a coma and died. Unfortunately the wine had

been contaminated with methyl alcohol, the main constituent of methylated spirits.

The immediate effect of drinking methyl alcohol is less disabling than drinking the equivalent amount of ethyl alcohol, as found in normal wines, spirits and beers. The trouble only becomes apparent once it has been metabolised in the body.

The oxidation of the methyl alcohol in the liver and kidney results in the formation of formic acid and formaldehyde, which in the worst cases causes irreversible damage to eyes, severe headaches, loss of consciousness, and sometimes death.

Souvenir of the tropics



THE controversy about the prevention of malaria after exotic holidays has distracted attention from a review published in *Hospital Update* of a particularly disgusting souvenir which can be brought back from rural areas of Africa and Central America.

Three Newcastle doctors, Dr M.H. Snow, Dr M.J. Colbridge and Dr S.K. Edwards, have written of three

recent cases of infestation with bot fly larvae. The infestation, known as myiasis, is caused by a maggot-like insect penetrating the skin. The eggs of the bot fly are carried on the abdomen of another insect, very often the mosquito, and when it settles on the soft tissue of a warm-blooded animal, they hatch. The larvae can pass through clothing, and within ten minutes they are safely buried in the human flesh, where they grow to thumbnail size. The larvae set up an inflammatory reaction like a boil. If a suitable paste is applied to the inflamed area the larva struggles through it to breathe, and can then be pulled out.

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As the catacomb comes back into fashion, a simple guide to reserving a last resting space

THEY spend their lives toying with an undressed lettuce leaf in San Lorenzo, shopping on the King's Road and drinking cocktails in Karpouche. So when they die it is only natural that the ladies who lunch want to be buried as close as possible to their Knightsbridge stomping ground in the sepulchral splendour of Brompton Cemetery.

Yet the inhabitants of this gilded corner of west London have as little chance of being laid to rest in Brompton's ivy-covered grounds as of joining Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party. Along with cemeteries all over London, Brompton, the imposing home to the remains of such luminaries as Emmeline Pankhurst and John Widen of almanac fame, has run out of room.

Last week, the cemetery announced that it would be tackling its space deficit by reopening its catacombs to new inmates. At present housing 1,200 lead-lined tombs containing the rotting relics of the Victorian bourgeoisie, the catacombs may soon be welcoming the corpses of their great-great-grandchildren.

There are many people who would like to be buried here, but at the moment they can't, says a cemetery spokesman. "The only space available is in graves purchased by undertakers who then sell the spaces on. When the catacombs reopen there will be room for several hundred more bodies."

All over London, the problem is the same. Deaths are about to boom, from the present figure of 640,000 a year to a peak of 629,000 in the middle of the next century. Yet the cemeteries are full to bursting. Anyone whose heart is set on a particular cemetery should book a plot now and expect to pay for it.

"Anyone who wants to be buried in London is talking £3,000 as a conservative estimate," says Ian Hussein, the deputy superintendent registrar of the City of London Cemeteries and Crematoriums.



Classical grandeur: the imposing catacombs at Brompton may soon be welcoming the remains of the great-great-grandchildren of Victorian worthies already interred there

Cemeteries to die for

Plot at his cemetery. "We have no famous residents, unless you count a few victims of Jack the Ripper" cost £1,500 for a single grave to £16,000 for a family vault.

"That doesn't count digging the grave, the headstone and the costs of the funeral."

Karl Marx is no doubt turning in his grave at prices in his resting place. Highgate, arguably London's most beautiful, and certainly its most exclusive cemetery. According to Richard Clark, the manager of privately-owned Highgate, prices range from £1,300 for a single grave in the "prosperous east cemetery" to more than £10,000 for a vault in the fashionable west cemetery, near the bones of Ralph Richardson, George Eliot and Parady.

"We do have a distinct

ambience which makes us very popular," says Mr Quirk. "And yes, people of a certain persuasion might like to be near Marx's grave."

Bernard France, of A. France and Son, a funeral parlour in Bloomsbury, central London, says: "Highgate is very popular if you want to be buried with all the great and you have the financial resources. It's beautifully kept

and has a distinctive, but charming, Gothic gloom. Sometimes when we are dealing with a distinguished person, you really feel you should mention it as an option."

Also popular with Mr France's customers, as well as being cheaper, is Hampstead cemetery, which houses Lister, Marie Lloyd and one Arthur Price, a ventriloquist buried with his dummy. This, how-

ever, is local-authority controlled and open only to residents of the borough of Camden.

In the private sector, Mr France recommends leafy Kensal Green, in northwest London, where Thackeray, Brunel and Trollope are buried. According to Julie Rugg, of the Cemeteries Research Group at York University, it was Kensal Green which set

the trend for Victorians to be buried in cemeteries. "Two children of George III chose to be buried there — the first members of the Royal Family to be buried among commoners. After that, everybody wanted to go there."

Opened in 1832, Kensal Green was the first cemetery in London, designed to house the overflow from the cramped churchyards, where

gravediggers frequently had to dig through bodies to make space for new ones. The first private cemeteries, opened with profit in mind, were often so crowded that one family in the 1840s complained that the ground level at the graveyard next door had risen so high it was now level with their windows. Vicars, who received a large proportion of their income from burial fees, discouraged the development of new burial grounds.

"It was at this time that the catacombs at Brompton became incredibly fashionable," says Dr Rugg. "People saw them as being in the tradition of the landed gentry with their family vaults."

I took the cholera epidemic of 1849 to change this fashion. "Cata-

combs were seen as insalubrious. People thought they were catching diseases from these bodies buried above the ground and the catacombs were forced to close. The City of London has never closed its catacombs. "They've never been that popular," says Mr Hussein. Brompton, meanwhile, is planning to charge between £1,500 and £3,000 per cell, using profits to restore the catacomb buildings.

Those too impecunious to reserve a place in the houses of the dead might prefer to be cremated, like 70 per cent of the population.

For cremation, many people like Golders Green Crematorium," says Mr France. Opened in 1902, Golders Green, a listed building with 12 acres of garden, including a dispersal-lawn planted with more than a million crocus bulbs, was London's first crematorium and hundreds of celebrities have gone up in smoke there, including Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Marc Bolan, Vivien Leigh, Sid James, Anna Pavlova and T.S. Eliot. In the grounds there are memorials to, among others, such crematees as Freud, Chamberlain, Kipling and Peter Sellers. A cremation costs £210.

For those still undecided by the price of interment, the best solution might be to be laid to rest in the back garden. "It is not illegal, so long as you keep a burial register and are not going to poison a water supply," says Dr Rugg. "But I have never heard of anyone actually doing this. It sounds like a nice idea, but think what it does to the resale value of the property."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

Benedict Nightingale raises the curtain on a curious world where you can earn a fortune by pretending to be yourself

Acting — or simply living the part?

Recently there was a rumour that Stephen Fry was going to play himself in a television version of *Past Perfect*, Simon Gray's book about the disastrous production of his play *Cell Mates*. In other words, Fry would be a large, worried actor who flees England for Broages and ends up in a bereft, posing as someone called Monsieur Simon.

Actually, his next major task is to take the lead in a film about Oscar Wilde, and, if we are to believe its makers, this will be almost as close a match. "Stephen's intelligence, flamboyance and wit are such

it makes incredible sense," one of the producers is quoted as saying. Fry will, it seems, still be somewhat typecast.

But typecasting can, of course, go a lot further than that. Anthony Quayle, who often played war heroes on the screen, really was a war hero. Tony Hancock was a gloomy, insecure man, desperate for intellectual recognition and painfully aware of the gaps in his education, just like his persona on television. Sybil Thorndike, vicar's daughter and socialist idealist, felt that Shaw's St Joan was in large part herself. Noël Coward was, invariably Noël Coward, especially when he was saying Noël Coward things in Noël Coward plays.

Nell Gwyn, the first female star of our stage, brought her own mischief, gusto and exotic charisma to roles that even her great admirer, Pepys, sometimes found "very smutty". She was as much the tantalising sexpot onstage as off it, and, on the few occasions



Fry playing Fry, Coward as the archetypal Coward: two classic examples of typecasting

she performed tragedy, she contrived to remain her irrepressible self. After committing suicide in Dryden's *Tyrannic Love*, she leapt off her bier to reassure her male fans she was "the ghost of your poor departed Nelly" and promised to "come dance about your bed at night".

Of course all actors are typecast to some extent. Their bodies, faces, voices and, often, personalities dictate or limit who they can play. You would never cast Glenda Jackson as

the shrinking Desdemona, or Quentin Crisp as Tamberlane the Great, or Edward Fox, the quinescent Edward VIII, as Bill Sikes. Yet acting is a slippery business, which constantly surprises and persistently eludes definition. It is more than padding that is currently transforming Oliver Ford Davies, who won an Olivier award for his playing of a very thin vicar in David Hare's *Racing Demon*, into a very fat John Ogdon in William Humble's *Virtuoso* at

the Wolsey, Ipswich. Nor is it just a northern accent and a streetwise slouch that turns the elegant Diana Rigg into Mother Courage at the National. A mark of major actors is an uncanny ability to reinvent themselves from top to toe. It is to resist typecasting.

Even so, this often involves drawing on aspects of themselves they have in common with the characters they are playing. Though Olivier was always considered the most external of important actors —

one who mimicked others rather than exposed his own nature — his Macbeth was praised for its uniquely dark, inner qualities. Why? Surely because he knew what it meant to hunger to become and remain number one.

The great megalomaniac actors have often scored special successes in despotic roles. The venomous Keen was a superb Richard III. Macready, who scorned other performers as "beasts from hell", was brilliant as Coriolanus and King John. Wolfit, a monster of egotism, was a wonderfully domineering Lear. Edith Evans was Lady Bracknell.

Typecasting can be deceptive. It can even be a sort of disinformation. Rex Harrison usually played cool, urbane, affable men, yet in private was the selfish ogre whose last words to his solicitous son from his deathbed were: "What can you do? Drop dead." But for better actors typecasting has meant owning up, telling truths about themselves.

Was Michael Redgrave the stronger in the role of the Captain in Strindberg's *Father* for being a tormented bisexual? Certainly, one critic praised him for showing "the weakness of the lonely neurotic behind the Captain's sham virility". Was the late Robert Stephens the moving Falstaff he was because he knew that

drink and dissolute living had wrecked him and his career? But here we are talking about something deeper and more private than the term "typecasting" can convey. If you want a more literal example of what it means, none is more horribly apt than John Barrymore's farewell to the stage, a play called *My Dear Children*. It concerned a Shakespearean ham on the skids, and at the time the once-great actor was skidding almost to skid-row.

On stage, he was drinking everything from ammonia to camphor; he was given to urinating in lifts and hotel lobbies; his language was as vile as his appearance; he made drunken

passes at anyone female, from tarts to waitresses to his own daughter to his estranged wife, who was less than half his age.

The audiences, who knew some of this, flocked to see the sordid self-portrait, and Barrymore fulfilled their expectations, tipsily luffing his lines, or falling asleep on stage, or giving crude, offensive curtain-speeches.

It was called "the spiritual striptease of Gipsy Rose John", "the complete obliteration of Dr Jekyll by Mr Hyde". And what did Barrymore do next? He made a film called *The Great Profile* about a ruined actor drunkenly ad-libbing through a trashy play. Typecasting has gone, or sunk, no further.

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Alan Coren



■ Don't talk tosh about Cézanne's art — I know how he rose to fame

You don't know how lucky I am. I have been up Cézanne's ladder. It has an iffy rung. I do not, however, intend to tell you which one. Not unless we meet, and you say: "For me, *Hills and Mountains in Provence* has always been the fulcrum of his development. I'm not talking only about the new audacity, I'm talking about that extraordinary palpability in its structure which shows just how far Cézanne had advanced beyond the mirages of Impressionism."

If you say that — certainly if the woman opposite counters with "Yes, it was once owned by Gauguin, you know, but the point came when Paul could no longer endure what he called the aggression of its solidity" — I shall put down my fork and say, "I have been up his ladder."

I can do a full five minutes on Cézanne's ladder. It was a good ladder, honest, coarse-hewn, thick-poled, peg-jointed, no nails, no worm either, a bit of warp of course, after all this time, but no unsettling whip, you could be five metres up that ladder and not know you were on one, provided you remembered the iffy rung. It had this creak. I can't say whether or not it creaked when Cézanne went up it, a century is a long time in ladder-land. Then again, it might depend what he was carrying, he was a big man by 1886 and if he had an easel under one arm, possibly a heavy box of painter's bits and bobs under the other, it might even account for the rung becoming iffy in the first place. We cannot know all there is to know about such things, your Johnny Art is a mysterious cove, and while it is diverting to think that my ear might have shared a creak with Cézanne's, I am not jumping to any conclusions.

I rented the ladder in 1986. Not just the ladder, naturally, you do not load your family into a stationwagon and drive to Aix-en-Provence for a fortnight up a ladder. I rented a nicely mottled 18th-century house because it had this terrific swimming-pool with the Mont Ste-Victoire reflected in it, you could float through it on your back, it was the view of the mountain Cézanne never saw, the pool wasn't built until 1920. Not that I know whether he could swim, I should have to ask the woman opposite, or that bloke at the far end who was banging on about Cézanne's architectural approach to the female buttock a bit back, green underpainting to relate flesh to rock, all that.

It was the elderly *gardiens* who told me about Cézanne going up the ladder. His father and grandfather had been *gardiens* before him, and one of his grandfather's duties had been to prop the ladder against the wall so that Cézanne could climb onto the flat roof for an aspect of the mountain unavailable anywhere else. Many a morning, Cézanne would trudge a kilometre up the lane from the Jas de Bouffin, the house he inherited from his father in 1886, climb the ladder and gaze.

I did that, too. Sometimes, I took a bottle up. Between the first glass and the last, the evening mountain landscape would change from pink to blue by going through a million colours between which have no names at all.

I did not know then, of course, what a very important thing this was to have done. That was because I did not know that a huge Cézanne retrospective would open at the Tate today and become the most talked-about event in the whole history of talking. I have already been to two dinner parties and a lunch where they talked of little else and the exhibition hadn't even opened: the scalp crawls at the prospect of all the talking which lies ahead, after everyone has seen the thing. And everyone will see the thing. It is the thinking man's *Mousetrap*.

I do not want to hear anybody's opinion about Cézanne's pictures. I never want to hear anybody's opinion about anybody's. Not least because courtesy requires a response, and before I know it I feel my own jaw going up and down, and hear my own mouth trotting out tosh. Which is why, this time, I am one of the lucky ones. For once, I am in a position to counter the, er, mirage of aesthetic criticism with the aggressive solidarity of anecdote. I shall tell them about going up his ladder. And if that doesn't make them put a sock in it, I shall do his bucket.

Because there was this old wooden bucket in the wash-house, and the *gardiens* said...



No minister: Bart's belongs

A great hospital is facing closure, but there is a better alternative

I am not a frequent resigner. I usually accept the American adage "If you don't keep your feet under the table, you don't get to carve the turkey". However, this week I have left that I had to resign from the task force on the future use of the St Bartholomew's Hospital site, the most important historic site in world medicine.

On Tuesday, I wrote to Sir Ronald Grieson, the chairman, with whom my personal relations remain excellent: "I feel that I should confirm my decision to resign from the St Bartholomew's Hospital Committee. As you know, my view is that the King's Fund proposal is the most promising that we have seen so far. If it is held that we cannot consider this, I see no further use in the committee."

My experience on the task force has convinced me that there is no appropriate alternative function for more than a fraction of the Bart's site which is remotely economical, and no valid non-medical use which is likely to be financially viable. The press states that the cost of re-commissioning the site for the London School of Economics — probably the most attractive non-medical proposal — would be £150 million; that would have to come out of charitable or public funds. Even that excludes the £65 million of net gain from property sales anticipated in the Royal Hospitals Trust's case for a new single-site hospital in Whitechapel, and the LSE figure has probably been taken before VAT. If one includes the site value write-off, and the likely tax, the cost of transferring the LSE to the Bart's site is of the order of £250 million, more than the gross capital cost of the proposed single-site hospital, or of either of the two-site alternatives. The combined cost of building the single-site hospital, decommissioning Bart's, writing off the existing Bart's site value — not to mention £100 million of recently installed medical facilities — and of rebuilding to meet the LSE's needs, with fitting up and paying VAT, cannot be less than £500 million, an absurd figure.

Two 1995 consultant studies have thrown doubt on the financial calculations of the plan for a single-site hospital. CASPE Consulting, employed by the authoritative King's Fund, comments: "The continued preference of the single-site option, on financial grounds, is reliant on the disposal of the Bart's site. Without a firm guarantee of site disposal, the taxpayer could be left holding an expensive white elephant." The York Economics Consortium commented that

the preferred option generates an additional saving of £9 million at a cost of almost £100 million additional capital spending. We believe that there is sufficient uncertainty around the estimates of net revenue savings — which are central to the appraisal — to make the assumed difference in costs between the options extremely sensitive."

The most recent large single-site hospital to be built in London is the Chelsea and Westminster. Combined forecasting errors came close to an overrun of £200 million. The capital cost turned out to be more than double the original business plan estimate; the property sales came to less than half, and revenue costs also overran substantially.

The proposed Royal London revenue saving of £9 million on £100 million of extra capital spending could easily turn into a large revenue deficit on a larger, but unknown, capital sum.

Both the CASPE and the York Economics Consortium studies show that the specific Bart's decision needs to be re-examined. I do not think that anyone who has been involved with the Bart's decision, or who was involved with the Chelsea and Westminster decision, could still believe in the open-mindedness of the Department of Health, or in the Bart's case, of the Royal Hospitals Trust. Objectors have faced a mixture of dogma, bureaucracy and skilful lobbying, with minimal willingness to listen to counter-arguments.

There is already a shortage of beds throughout the National Health Service, and particularly in London. I could write several articles about the horror stories of patients, but the hard statistics make the case. Either Britain is already grossly short of beds, or the rest of Europe is grossly wasteful. Dr Max Gorman has for years followed the reduction in the number of hospital beds per thousand of population in Britain.

If one takes the latest figures available from the OECD, England in 1993 had 4.5 beds per 1,000, as against 7.6 in 1980. France had 9.4 against 11 in 1980.

Germany 10.1 against 11.5. Italy 6.7 against 10.1, and Spain 4.2 against 5.4. The European average is 8 against 9.7 in 1980. All the European countries show a decline, but England shows a faster decline than any, and to a level lower than any except Spain. This has been achieved partly by reductions in the average period of stay in hospital, but also by such practices as "hotbedding", mixed wards, holding patients on trolleys and the reduction in the margin for emergencies. One major flu epidemic could well overwhelm the English hospital system.

This loss of hospital beds in England seems to have developed a momentum of its own. No fewer than 103,000 beds were lost in the 1980s, and beds per 1,000 fell further, from 5.5 to 4.5, in the period between 1990 and 1993. This is not because Britain's unemployment is high, but because Britain's GDP is high.

We spend about the same in Britain as the average in the EU: around 6 per cent of gross domestic product. The rest of the EU does, however, spend somewhat more in the independent sector, about 1.7 per cent of GDP, against Britain's 1.2 per cent.

The decision to close Bart's rests on three false premises. The first is that there is a profitable alternative use for the site, or, at worst, an appropriate use which will not cost the public money. No such uses have been proposed to the task force. The second is that the cost of the new hospital will not exceed the plan estimate, and that the revenue saving will not fall short. The two most recent independent consultants question these assumptions. The third is that the reductions in the number of NHS beds can safely continue, although English beds are probably now at half the average European level. The closure of Bart's is part of the bed closure programme which has already reduced much of London medicine to a Poor Law standard. This deterioration is particularly disturbing in the Royal Hospitals Trust's deprived area.

When I became Chairman of the Arts Council in 1982, a similar prejudice existed in arts funding, a hostility against any funding that did not come from the State. The arts have benefited enormously from the development of alternative sources of funding, including sponsorship and charitable giving, but that was a change of policy for the Arts Council. The King's Fund proposal would not only make better medical provision for a deprived area, and save the Bart's tradition of excellence, but would help to bring additional funds into medical care. The Bart's issue involves the choice between catastrophe and an opportunity, between something much worse and something much better than we have at present. The orthodox view — and Mr Dorrell's — is that it is better to let the whole system break down than to try new methods of organisation and funding.

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William Rees-Mogg

Dishonoured

UNIVERSITY lecturers are so appalled at a proposal to give Kenneth Clarke an honorary degree that they are threatening to strike. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is being considered for an honorary doctorate in Law at Nottingham Trent University, and academics are aghast.

It is not so much his academic record that has got mortboards spinning, as the manner in which the Government has cut back funding at his behest. The lecturers also point out that the university's policy to date has been to avoid honorary doctorates for serving politicians.

A final decision about the degree will be made at the end of the month by the university's board of governors. But there are concerns that the old boy network might be the swing matters Clarke's way — the chairman of the governors, Sir David White, was at Clarke's school, Nottingham High, and is a long-standing friend of the clerical Chancellor.

At the weekend, the lecturers' union, NATFHE, raised the matter at a conference in London, saying: "We all want to know why the university wants to honour a serving politician who has just

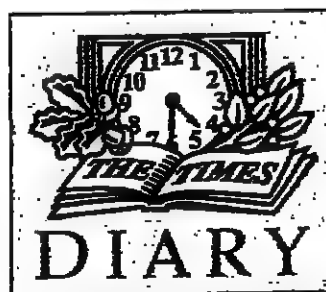
imposed cuts of £300 million on higher education." The university refused to be drawn on the matter — plans for honorary awards are "strictly confidential".

Hick up

ONE SUREFIRE indication of the esteem in which the England cricket manager Ray Illingworth holds his team is the Sky Sports fantasy cricket team that he has created. He scoured the world for talent, but picked just two England players, Michael Atherton and Graeme Hick. None of the English bowlers, it seems, are up to scratch.

Team spirit

ROMANCE will soon blossom on the terraces at Old Trafford, and we are not talking about schoolgirl crushes on Ryan Giggs or Eric Cantona. Manchester United has just received a licence for marriage ceremonies at the hallowed ground. Yesterday the red army (as fans in that neck of the woods are termed) put the Old Trafford switchboard under relentless pres-



sure. Everybody wants to score in the game of two halves.

Many will be disappointed, however. "Regulations are strict and it is important that people realise they can't get married on the pitch," says a spokesman. "We hope to be able to cope with four weddings a day." Requests for ceremonies on the roof of the new grandstand have already been turned down.

Eggsactly

RELATIONS between two of the most forthright women in Westminster have turned as bitter as the winds from Siberia. Teresa Gorman has fired off an icy note to Edwina Currie over her latest appalling bonkbuster. In the book's epilogue, Edwina writes: "Teresa Gorman had at last succumbed to advancing years, stopped taking

the tablets [a reference to her HRT treatment] and shrunk to a benign little granny."

"I wrote a little note to Edwina to ask her if it was really necessary for her to make such comments, and she replied saying, 'read the book', but I really don't have time to read that stuff," explains Teresa, who distinguished herself yesterday in the MP's Bramley apple and spoon race.

"She has really fished around in the garbage of Parliament in order to make snide remarks about



Teresa, unjustly treated

people. I think it's sad." And they are on the same side.

● Cézanne fever has gripped London, but there is also worldwide interest in the Tate Gallery's exhibition. Rumours spread yesterday that the teenage bride Sarah Cook came back to Britain from Turkey solely for the private view. And the gallery has received a call from the Bournemouth Echo. "They asked for an interview with Cézanne," explains a spokeswoman. "But only dear Doris Stokes could have accomplished that."

Horse drawn

THE PRINCESS ROYALS' evening days may be over, but there are high hopes in the Queen's household of further glory in the sport. Tabitha Ross, daughter of Col Malcolm Ross, Comptroller to the Lord Chamberlain, is being tipped to represent Britain in the Olympics — if not this time then in 2000 — on her trusty steed, HRH.

Ross, 25, had wanted to call the horse, which she keeps at her stable in Abergavenny, HRH the Prince of Wales, because he was sired by the stallion Ascendant. "However, Buckingham Palace said we couldn't name a horse after a member of the Royal Family, but we could have HRH, which is as good as," whinnies



Tabitha and her mount

Tabitha. "Now, because my father works for the Queen, people think we are fawning monarchists, but it was a separate thing."

● Elizabeth Connell, who plays Isolde in the English National Opera's *Tristan and Isolde*, which opens on Saturday, plans to keep sweet during the five-and-a-half-hour marathon by sticking straws through the set. She will sneak sips of water from hidden bottles in the event of dehydration.

P.H.S

Culture is not anarchy

Schools must reject relativism, says

Nicholas Tate

Last month *The Times* reported the death in Massachusetts of the last surviving speaker of Cotawba, a North American Indian language. He had faced death knowing that with him would die not just a language but a whole culture. Cotawba is not unique. It joins the long list of languages and cultures which have succumbed to the advance of the West. A new empathy for cultures which have been under threat was symbolised last year when the Queen signed legislation in the name of the New Zealand Government tendering its profound regret and an unreserved apology to the Maoris for the seizure of their land.

But we are not without cultural anguish of our own. We lament the waning of many aspects of our own culture: the continuing "melancholy, long, withdrawing roar" of Christianity, the decline of knowledge of the classics, the illiteracy of new élites, the passing of the England of "the meadows, the lanes, the guildhalls, the carved choirs", and the threat to cultural diversity from the global communications revolution. When half of young people aged 15-35 feel that there are no definite rights and wrongs in life, when the same proportion do not know what Good Friday commemorates, and even more are ignorant of our history, it is not surprising that some people — not only the middle-aged and the nostalgic — feel that cultural continuity hangs by a thread.

It is about time we had a clearer view of education's role in these matters. That is why the Government's School Curriculum and Assessment Authority is hosting an international conference this week on culture, society and the curriculum.

From my view, there are four principles on which we need to agree. First, that a basic purpose of education is to help young people to appreciate the best of our cultural inheritance and to sustain it. This needs to be said, if only to combat the romantic individualism which supposes that each new generation can somehow create the world afresh.

Second, that the curriculum needs to be firmly and proudly based in a cultural heritage with its roots in Greece and Rome, in Christianity and in European civilisation. This is why our present curriculum emphasises the centrality of British history, Britain's changing relations with the rest of the world, the English literary heritage (with Shakespeare in pride of place) and the study of Christianity, alongside the development of critical skills.

Third, that all pupils should be made aware of the rich heritage of some of the other cultures and traditions now represented in this country. All pupils, for example, should leave school knowing that both the Greeks and the Indian subcontinent are the homes of ancient civilisations with rich artistic and literary traditions. Teaching about other cultures in schools is too often about superficial features, such as saris and samosas, rather than about these great achievements.

Fourth, that schools should aim to develop in young people a sense that some works of literature, music, art and architecture are more valuable than others. Until recently, hardly anyone would have doubted this. Though they were subject to change and dispute, it was accepted that there was a literary canon, an artistic canon, a musical canon, and so on.

Today, however, cultural education takes place against a different background. The dominant intellectual current is cultural relativism. According to this view there is no difference in value between, say, Schubert and Blur, between Milton and Mills & Bunn, or between Vermeer's *View of Delft* and a dead sheep at the Tate. All are cultural products to be understood, not in terms of their value, but in relation to the structures and circumstances — including the gender, race and social class of the artist — within which they were produced.

By contrast, a key purpose of the curriculum has been and should continue to be the introduction of young people to high culture: the pursuit of knowledge and the arts for their own sake, the exercise of judgment irrespective of the circumstances in which the work of art was produced, and a sense of intrinsic value of those works of art which have been supremely successful in helping us to make sense of and respond to the world.

Certain implications follow from these broad principles. The school curriculum needs to help develop a sense of civic and national identity, and to maintain the distinctive features of English as it is written and spoken in these islands, in the face of its growth as a world language. Schools should also reflect our belief that despite technological changes, the written word, and in particular the book, has a special place at the heart of our culture.

Cultural continuity is also about the transmission of moral codes. The idea of universal values has been central from the Greeks to the Enlightenment. Perhaps we need a reassertion of this moral tradition.

These issues arouse strong passions. The school curriculum has long ceased to be a secret garden, and debate needs to involve the whole community. As T.S. Eliot put it education is a "religious question", not just a matter of "getting on".

Dr Nicholas Tate is chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

هكمان النحلي



BLAIR'S CONSTITUTIONAL

Labour's leader still walks on the uncertain side

The clearest water in British politics now lies between the Labour and Conservative positions on the constitution. Yesterday, as Tony Blair set out the principles behind his support for constitutional reform, the Tory party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, gave notice that he would hark the Labour leader mercilessly over what he described as "an entirely new constitutional order based on fashionable left-wing prejudices in defiance of the wisdom of the ages".

The electoral rhetoric is clear enough. But what of the wisdom of the ages itself? It cannot be doubted that Britain's constitution is the result of evolutionary rather than revolutionary change, that it has never been torn up and replaced, simply added to and amended in response to circumstances. Equally, nor has it always stood still. The question now is whether Labour's proposals fit the evolutionary tradition or represent a damaging revolutionary upheaval.

Incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights and the introduction of a freedom of information Bill are examples of good incremental reform. As we have argued before, the human rights measure would enable British citizens to appeal to British rather than European judges if their rights have been infringed. And freedom of information would return power to the citizen that has been jealously guarded by politicians and civil servants. Neither threatens political stability.

Nor would a judicious return of powers to local government. As Simon Jenkins has often, and eloquently, argued on the page opposite, the accretion of power to Whitehall and Westminster must be reversed. Big government is almost inevitably bad government; and one reason why national politicians are held in such low repute is that people feel so remote from the political decisions that affect their lives.

Even reform of the House of Lords ought to be achievable without rending the fabric of British parliamentary life. As long as

hereditary peers who have proved their worth are included in the new chamber, there is much to be said for merit, rather than birth, determining its make-up. If an element of elected accountability can be introduced too, so much the better.

The critical problem arises over devolution, particularly to Scotland. The decentralising arguments which pertain to local government are as powerful north of the border, but they have the added force that Scottish discontent with the current system has lent them. There is also a strong case that devolution would be effective at keeping the Union together, as the Unionists in Northern Ireland already understand.

The Scots have long complained that, while they consistently vote for Labour in large numbers, they end up being governed by Tories. The difficulty, though, is that abolishing this anomaly merely replaces it with another: the knotty West Lothian question which, in its many forms, draws attention to the asymmetry that would result if MPs at Westminster were able to vote on English and Welsh matters but not Scottish ones.

The logical response to this question is to prevent Scottish MPs from voting on English and Welsh legislation, confining their powers to matters covering the UK as a whole. Yet that could lead to the impossible position of a Labour majority government being unable to pass its own legislation in England and Wales: this would have been the case after the October 1974 election, when Labour's majority was maintained by its Scottish MPs.

Mr Blair is well aware of the importance of the West Lothian question. But he has yet to come up with an answer to it. Until he does, it is impossible to pass judgment upon his devolution plans. For the collateral damage that they might wreak could be greater than the discontent that they are designed to address. Evolutionary tradition demands that the risks of change should not outweigh its benefits.

LILLEY'S LOGIC

The future of pensions is private

The central issue in every developed country, according to Peter Lilley, is how to curb welfare spending. Yesterday the Social Security Secretary outlined his modest proposals for nudging more people towards private provision. He also made short work of the small beer presented as an either/or instant social cohesion by the Opposition. Mr Lilley has established a formidable reputation as a reformer on tricky political terrain. But there is still further to go.

Mr Lilley, in an inaugural lecture to the Bank-tank Politica, chose to deal with the most significant part of his portfolio — provision for the elderly. He skilfully delineated the central problem, recognised by Government and Opposition alike: in years to come an ageing population will make greater than ever demands on a shrinking workforce. He also pointed out that the State does not save, individuals do. The Government spends £90 billion a year on social security, but that is simply current expenditure immediately disbursed. If care is to be taken of the millions more who will be living on pensions in a generation's time then money needs to be put away, money the Government does not have. The proposals unveiled by Mr Lilley yesterday to encourage small businesses without occupational schemes to set up group personal pensions should help relieve some more of the State's burden.

The Opposition has not tried to pretend that the cradle-to-the-grave welfare state can continue unremedied. Its leaders know that cold arithmetic would quickly puncture any such inflated rhetoric. Instead they pose as the genuinely radical reformers. Labour figures argue that only their own party, as the founder of the welfare state, is equipped to make the tough decisions necessary. Just as only Nixon could go to China so, it is said,

only Labour can reform welfare: the status quo's supporters have to be turned on by their own side.

It is a familiar argument, but one which in this case is as unconvincing as it is ahistorical. By Labour's logic it should have been the only party capable of curbing the over-mighty trades unions of the Sixties and Seventies: instead its attempts ended in humiliation. It needed Margaret Thatcher and Norman Tebbit to put the unions in their place. The real lesson is that tough problems are only solved by politicians who know their own mind. Labour still does not, as Mr Lilley showed yesterday.

The Social Security Secretary argued that two Labour proposals, a guaranteed minimum pension and a compulsory second pension, already exist in the shape of the state pension plus income support and the State Earnings Related Pension Supplement. Labour has shown recent interest in Asian models, in the shape of Singapore's compulsory Central Provident Fund and the trade union-influenced Australian pension funds. Both, however, involve the direction of investment for political ends — and both consequently yield less income than wholly private schemes.

The thrust of Mr Lilley's analysis is persuasive — the most effective way to safeguard care is for individuals to make their own provision. Moving in that direction will mean that many may have to pay twice, for their own future and for those currently on the state pension. Any movement must be gradual. But the direction should be clear — the erosion of state support and an eventual system fully funded by personal savings. That would be true stakeholding, and has the potential to be genuinely popular capitalism.

NO OTHER FRUIT

London falls under Cézanne's tenacious spell

Paintings and sketches by Paul Cézanne — bright leaves in an artistic whirlwind — have come to the Tate Gallery in London. Prize works are here from galleries great and small: St Petersburg, Philadelphia, São Paulo, Paris, Berlin, Liverpool, Basle, Los Angeles and more. Londoners and London's visitors should rejoice in the unbounded opportunity now at hand to study, admire and revel in this art of many textures.

Such distinction as Cézanne's rarely comes without pain and paradox. The artist whom we regard today as the greatest of the Moderns — with a certainty of belief that he, if alive, would surely have found maddening — made only late and painful progress in his own lifetime. He had to wait until he was 56 years old before he had his first one-man exhibition. He had the dapper Ambroise Vollard to thank for that — and the latter had reason to be grateful to Cézanne as well. The artist was to paint Vollard's portrait four years later: it is the most limpid of his later portraits, although Cézanne could not resist endowing even this prosperous Parisian picture-dealer with the hands of a Peacock peasant.

Even though the Establishment, to its discredit, found him all too easy to resist, his fellow artists were not slow to discern his genius. Degas, Monet, Gauguin and Renoir all bought Cézanne's paintings; Pissarro

never doubted his greatness, even at the beginning, when he might have been forgiven for doing so; and Matisse bought the *Three Bathers* when he could least afford the price, declaring sweetly 37 years later that he still did not know the canvas "completely". Cézanne was less appreciative of his contemporaries: "I scorn all living painters, except Monet and Renoir," he once growled.

The splendidly hung Tate exhibition brings out Cézanne's tremendous diversity. As John Golding wrote recently in an exquisite essay in *The New York Review of Books*, there were very few static moments in Cézanne's career: with the various genres of painting so strongly differentiated in his mind, his art "was continually on the move". There is nothing, whether pastiche, portrait, still life or landscape, that he did not paint. From unduly violent beginnings he moved finally to *The Large Bathers*, strange, huge women of quite compelling mansuetude.

Yet in this array of canvas and composition, it is his still lifes which will perhaps endure best — with admiration undiminished — into the decades that follow our own. Nowhere is his industry more apparent, nor even his sense of symbol, than, for example, in the *Still Life With Apples* he completed in 1894. Go to the Tate and taste Cézanne's apples. Afterwards, there is no other fruit.

Tighter rules for juries questioned

From Mr Louis Schaffer

Sir, There may be many good reasons for tightening the rules which allow persons called for jury service to avoid their obligations, but those given by Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary (report, February 7), make depressing reading.

He makes at least three unverifiable assumptions: that the increase in acquittals means that the guilty are getting away with it; that juries are "skewed" towards the working class and unemployed; that such jurors are often unsympathetic to the police (an old attitude for a Labour politician).

Is it not naive to suppose that a juror who is annoyed at the cancellation of the family's holiday or worried about the closing of his business will be more inclined to convict?

There may be other reasons for the increase in acquittals between 1986-87 and 1994-95. One is that it is indicative of fewer miscarriages of justice. Following the codes of practice introduced under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, such as the tape-recording of suspects' interviews, which may take place only at police stations, dishonest officers can no longer invent confessions or criminals claim that they have been "verbalised" and so would be advised to plead guilty. This was not the case before the Act.

Another reason has been the greater disclosure by the police of unused material which may assist the defence. If Mr Straw is really concerned at how juries reach their verdicts and not just trying to show that Labour is tough on crime, he should be advocating a change in the law to allow research into how juries arrive at their verdicts.

Yours sincerely,
LOUIS SCHAFFER,
10 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.
February 7.

From Professor Bernard S. Jackson

Sir, I fully endorse Professor Mike McConville's view ("Putting juries on trial", January 30) that there needs to be serious research into the jury system before new policy is made. I am less persuaded that such paltry evidence as exists justifies his own evaluation.

He refers *inter alia* to a 1992 shadow jury experiment (conducted in the Liverpool Crown Court) which generated a television programme, *Inside the Jury*, and suggests that this showed the jury deliberations to be "rational and thoughtful". Not everyone would agree.

At one point, with the jury divided four for conviction against eight for acquittal, one member of the majority observed that his side consisted of "four mature men" while the majority was made up of "four mature ladies together with all the youngsters".

At another point, frustrated at the apparent impasse, the same juror suggested a compromise: there were two charges, so he proposed "an honourable or dishonourable draw" — conviction on one charge, acquittal on the other. Rational and thoughtful?

In the Bible, the accuracy of the judicial function was legitimated by faith in divine inspiration: God was said to be "with you when you pass sentence" (II Chronicles xiv, 6). In the present state of knowledge, our faith in the jury enjoys a similar status.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD S. JACKSON,
University of Liverpool,
Faculty of Law, Liverpool L69.

From Mr John Bunting

Sir, Most criminal business is transacted in the magistrates' courts. If Mr Straw really holds such an old-fashioned and patronising view of the working class and the unemployed as his comments seem to suggest, will new Labour, if elected, also take steps to ensure that these supposed undesirables are avoided when selections for the magistracy are made?

Yours truly,
J. BUNTING,
77 Green Lane, Buxton, Derbyshire.
February 7.

Floral tributes

From Mrs M. J. Miles

Sir, Perhaps because it is now so easy to order flowers over the phone this has increasingly become the custom, particularly when a tragedy occurs that touches the heart of the nation. Such tributes are, however, almost invariably left in their florists' wrappings, so that soggy paper and steamed-up plastic obscure the beauty of the blooms.

The overall effect is often depressing rather than uplifting. Perhaps Mr Brian North, Lee's excellent suggestion (letter, February 1) that single flowers and small posies might be acceptable should be adopted also on more public occasions.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET MILES,
77 Marlborough Crescent,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Mrs Harriet Lear

Sir, A simple bunch of flowers instead of the often disastrous formal wreath, or even worse, plastic-wrapped bouquet, could be encouraged by a plea for "No bought flowers, please" in death notices.

Yours faithfully,
HARRIET LEAR,
Knowlands Farm, Buxton,
Nr Lewes, East Sussex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Uses of complementary medicine

From Dr Nick Argyle

Sir, I am delighted that you drew attention to the benefits provided by "alternative medicine" in your feature and leader yesterday (February 5; also articles, February 6). You are undoubtedly right to emphasise the importance of more well organised scientific studies, but where research has been done we need to ensure that the results are applied in general practice, for the benefit of both doctors and patients.

A study published a month ago in *Hypertension*, the journal of the American Heart Association, showed the regular practice of transcendental meditation (TM) reduced high blood pressure by about 11 points, without the side-effects of medication.

In all over 150 studies on TM have been published in scientific journals, showing that it helps with a wide range of stress-related disorders; that those who practise it have a significantly reduced need to go to the doctor (87 per cent reduced hospitalisation for heart disease in one study); and even that inflation-adjusted health-care costs can be reduced by between 5 and 7 per cent annually over a period of up to seven years (*American Journal of Health Promotion*, January/February).

The problem is that doctors who are aware of the potential uses of TM and wish to apply it often find it difficult to secure a budget from the local health authority. The Government and Department of Health are rightly keen for there to be more health promotion; they should therefore ensure that GPs are informed about the very significant research results on transcendental meditation.

Yours faithfully,
NICK ARGYLE
(Consultant psychiatrist,
Northwick Park Hospital,
Psychiatric Department,
Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
February 6.

From the Secretary of the General Council and Register of Osteopaths

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttard (February 6) cannot tar osteopathy with his broad-brush denigration of "altern-

ative remedies". All professionally regulated osteopaths undergo extensive training in basic medical sciences, followed by appropriate clinical training. This enables them to identify cases which require immediate referral to a general medical practitioner.

The recent report of the Clinical Standards Advisory Group on Low Back Pain recommended that the optimum treatment for acute back pain was early manipulative therapy, including osteopathy. It also stated that there is no convincing evidence that... X-rays are necessary before manipulation and that... CT and MRA scans are unsuitable for use as diagnostic screening tests.

Well over 100 fundholding and some non-fundholding GPs have already contracted with osteopaths to provide treatment for their NHS patients and the number is increasing daily. Osteopaths are also employed in some NHS hospitals and community trusts.

The new General Osteopathic Council, the first members of which were announced last Thursday, will have similar responsibilities to those of the General Medical Council, whose president has unreservedly supported the osteopathy profession.

Yours truly,
DAVID C. WEEKS,
Secretary,
The General Council and
Register of Osteopaths,
50 London Street, Reading, Berkshire.
February 6.

From Ms Antoinette Sym

Sir, While I applaud the wider coverage given to the various healing systems that are available, I would take issue with your term "alternative". Most practitioners would prefer "complementary", and any genuine practitioner would never advise a patient to ignore their GP or forgo traditional treatment.

Traditional and complementary treatment should be able to work together for the benefit of the patient.

Yours faithfully,
ANTOINETTE SYM
(Spiritual healer),
17 Hungerford Road, N7.

Angolan peace needs

From the Director General of Save the Children

Sir, The UN Security Council meets on February 8 to decide whether to keep 7,500 peacekeeping troops in Angola. Their mandate will probably be renewed for a few more months, but the "peace process" they are overseeing is deeply bogged down.

The three key provisions of the Lusaka protocol (which created the present ceasefire between the Government and Unita rebels) have still not been implemented. 14 months after the signing, these are the demobilisation of 60,000 Unita troops; Unita to join a new government of reconciliation; and freedom of movement for people and goods throughout Angola.

In the intensive diplomatic round which must follow an extension of the UN forces' mandate much attention will be given to the first two provisions. Save the Children believes the third is equally vital.

With front lines snaking back and forth across the interior provinces,

towns are cut off from their hinterlands, preventing farmers getting food to markets and essential consumer goods like salt, sugar, soap and cooking oil from getting into the countryside. Such simple exchanges could rapidly help people re-establish their livelihoods while waiting for the grant reconstruction plans which are dependent on peace.

Those of us assisting in re-establishing essential services such as primary healthcare have restricted access to populations across the lines nor can the people come to the services. In a country where one child in five dies before its fifth birthday this is a disaster.

While the other aspects of the process may drag on for several months, freedom of movement in Angola could save many lives now and throughout this year.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE AARONSON,
Director General,
The Save the Children Fund,
17 Grove Lane, SES,
February 6.

Scrap metal

From the Executive Director of the British Metals Federation

Sir, One can readily sympathise with the predicament of the new Environmental Agency's inspectors who, to quote Nick Nuttall's report (February 7), are being offered "clip-on ties, ultrasonic stunguns and courses in unarmed combat to deal with scrap metal merchants with big dogs". They will be in the front line of the battle to rid the nation of fly-tippers, law-defying dumpers of toxic waste and cowboy operators on the fringes of metals recycling.

However, the report regrettably perpetuates a long-held public misconception that scrap metal is the prerequisite of such people. In fact metals recycling is a thriving multi-billion pound industry in the UK and arguably the most environmentally responsible. In 1995 it transformed more

than ten million tonnes of redundant ferrous metals into furnace feed for steelworks and foundries; exports topped four million tonnes. Furthermore, the UK non-ferrous metals recycling industry is worth an estimated £3 billion annually.

If responsible metals recycling businesses — about 98 per cent of the industry — employ rotawheelers, it is solely to deter thefts of their valuable equipment and materials by the miscreant 2 per cent of the industry setting out to eradicate.

As far as the members of this federation are concerned, the sooner the inspectors unholster their stunguns, the better.

Yours etc,
RICK WILCOX,
Executive Director,
British Metals Federation,
16 High Street, Brampton,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.
February 7.

An upward trend

From the Bishop of Maidstone

Sir, In your report on matters to come before the forthcoming meeting of the General Synod ("Worshippers to be asked for 5 per cent of earnings", February 2), your correspondent spoke of "dwindling congregations".

You might be interested to know that congregations in the Archbishop's own diocese of Canterbury "dwindled" upwards last year to the tune of some 400 more worshippers on an average Sunday, and the same upward "dwindling" also took place in several other dioceses that I can name.

I say "several" simply because I have, thus far, only checked with a few.

Yours,
GAVIN MAIDSTONE,
Bishop of Maidstone,
Pett Lane,
Charing, Ashford, Kent.
February 2.

Living languages

From Mr Hugh Caldwell

Sir, Esperanto lives, as Mr Norman Berdichevsky (letter, January 27; see also letter, February 6) says: it lives, though, on the life-support machine supplied by language hobbyists.

I happened to be in a restaurant in Belgrade, in happier times, when it was host to a conference of Esperantists. A table of enthusiasts was enjoying a conversation in their hobby-language. When the waiter approached, they all switched immediately to English.

German would have done as well, but Esperanto would have been useless, of course.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH CALDWELL,
Clos du Cinquantenaire 2-B8,
Brussels B-1040.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Australian stance on World Cup

From Senator John Faulkner, Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories, Australia

Sir, I am writing to convey my anger, and that of the Australian people, at the sentiments expressed in your editorial of February 6 (see also letter, February 7).

To brand the decision of the Australian Cricket Board not to send the Australian team to Colombo for their World Cup match against Sri Lanka as "craven" is totally unjustified and grossly unfair to everyone who has been involved in this difficult decision, most importantly the Australian team members and their families.

The Australian Cricket Board and the players are well aware of the impact of their decision on the World Cup tournament. They have decided only with the greatest reluctance not to play in Colombo in view of the very real and serious security risks posed by the current situation in Sri Lanka. Their decision has the full support and understanding of the Australian Government and people. You will be aware that the West Indies team has independently reached the same decision.

I reject utterly your assertion that the Australian players have "acted neither with courage nor with diplomacy" on the basis that "they have upset the organisation of a complex tournament and handed a propaganda victory to the murderous Tamil rebels...". They are quite understandably concerned about their safety. The players' concerns are shared by their families and their many supporters. The Australian Cricket Board has quite rightly put the team's welfare ahead of other considerations in reaching the decision not to play in Colombo at this time.

Yours etc,
JOHN FAULKNER,
Minister for the Environment,
Sport and Territories,
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia.
February 7.

From Dr Daya Pandita-Gunawardena

Sir, The cricket-loving people of Sri Lanka, almost the whole of the island, eagerly await a change of heart and of mind by the Australian and West Indian cricket authorities. Our recent good performances abroad and the World Cup, which is the greatest sporting event in Sri Lanka, have generated tremendous enthusiasm and interest. I and many millions are crying out for a reinstatement of the full World Cup programme. The games against the Australians and West Indians would be two of the finest first-round matches in the tournament.

The Sri Lankan authorities, acknowledging the atrocities of the visiting cricketing ambassadors, have gone to extraordinary lengths to provide the kind of security usually reserved for visiting heads of state.

Disruption in the programme under these circumstances may well create a dangerous precedent. I sincerely hope that all four matches will be played in Sri Lanka as scheduled.

Yours faithfully,
DAYA PANDITA-
GUNAWARDENA
(Sri Lankan Cricket Board
Representative in the UK),
132 Foxley Lane, Purley, Surrey.

A new royal yacht

From the Secretary General of the Royal Yachting Association

Sir, The proposed royal sail training ship ("Is this the new Britannia?", Weekend, February 3) would promote our maritime heritage in a quite outstanding manner. She would project a real presence, in harbour and at sea, in a thoroughly modern yet environmentally sensitive way.

The imaginative concept of Queen's cadets from the Commonwealth as well as Britain would provide young people with an unforgettable experience. The project would be a marvelous symbol of British innovation and character as we reach the end of this millennium. The Head of State, diplomatic, commercial and youth development roles are all embraced by the concept. I very much hope that it proceeds.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN DUCHESNE,
Secretary General,
Royal Yachting Association,
RYA House,
Romsey Road,
Eastleigh, Hampshire.
February 3.

Naval engagement

From Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch

Sir, A convoy (letters, February 7) is a convoy, wherever (as P. G. Wodehouse said of a hellhound) you slice it. And the essence of convoy is escort.

Who, may one ask, is to escort the European Community?

And why, in time of peace, which the Community is intended to ensure, model it on a convoy, which is the most inefficient way of using available shipping, justifiable only in war?

Yours faithfully,
IAN McGECH,
Kirk Deighton House,
Kirk Deighton,
Wetherby, West Yorkshire.
February 7.

OBITUARIES

AGNES LATHAM

Agnes Latham, Reader in English at Bedford College, London, 1938-75, died in Pickering, North Yorkshire, on January 13 aged 90. She was born on January 31, 1905.

A SCHOLARLY woman born into an age which did not make life particularly easy for talents like hers, Agnes Latham will be best remembered as the editor of what is still the standard edition of the poems of Sir Walter Raleigh. Undertaken with no more than a year's research grant from the corporation of Wakefield (to whom eternal credit is due for their foresight), her edition of *The Poems of Sir Walter Raleigh* was published in 1929 and later reprinted. Although some of the poems she included have since been attributed to other authors, she was canny enough to disarm potential critics by noting her own reservations.

As remarkable as the edition itself — from one so young as she then was — is her introduction to the volume. It demonstrates a scholarly but also instinctive insight into the fiery spirit of Raleigh and his age, and of the vagaries of life in the often dangerous royal circle. As she noted, the seaman, poet and chronicler "is yet a lonely and enigmatic figure. Of all those curious dead-and-gone folk, who hide we know not what of human passion and desire behind the scant memorials and alien manners of the sixteenth century, he is the most baffling... He planned skyscrapers and mapped new worlds; and his contemporaries, of less vaulting mind, could make nothing of them. He was not a man of achievement but a man of promise, a quickening spirit. His world is, and was, the world of the creative imagination."

Agnes Latham was for thirty years after the war a much respected



teacher in the University of London. She also devoted years to an edition of Raleigh's letters which is being prepared for publication.

Agnes Mary Christabel Latham was one of three sisters, descended on their mother's side from the Booths, well known in Yorkshire as organ-builders. From Wakefield Girls High School she won an entrance scholarship to Oxford and read English

language and literature at Somerville, graduating with a first-class degree in 1926. She almost immediately began work on her celebrated edition of Raleigh's poems. Notwithstanding this feat, like so many outstanding women scholars of her generation, she found the university teaching profession closed to her, virtually until after the Second World War — and an appointment to the

staff of Bedford College, London, in 1939 had to be held over until 1946.

Meanwhile she taught in schools, which she probably found somewhat irksome although her pupils were undoubtedly very well instructed, and those able to respond amazingly well-informed. In the 1930s, however, she had already begun work on an edition of Raleigh's letters, to replace and augment that of Edward Edwards published as long ago as 1868.

After the war, first as a lecturer and, from 1958, as Reader in English Literature at Bedford College, she continued, with the stimulus of university teaching and the accessibility of her main sources at the Public Record Office, the British Library and, most important of all, the Cecil papers at Hatfield House, to transcribe the letters in the elegant and legible hand which delighted those who corresponded with her to the end of her life.

In the 1970s she was invited to join a team led by Professor Pierre Lefranc of Laval University, Quebec, which was to prepare for publication, with support from the Canada Council, the whole of Raleigh's works. This brought her into touch with other North American Raleigh specialists such as Ernest Strathmann of California, and David Beers Quinn and the late Alison Quinn of the University of Liverpool. These were contacts she much enjoyed. They also provided her with the additional resources which enabled her to add substantially to her collection of letters — many of them never before printed — from repositories all over the northern hemisphere.

The demise of the Canadian project in 1975 left her free to complete her edition independently, which she aimed to do in retirement in her beloved Yorkshire. But with advancing years and beyond the easy reach of libraries she found the last lap

beyond her. To her great joy, the completion and publication of her meticulously-edited texts are being undertaken at the University of Exeter.

Raleigh was not her only concern. In fact, progress on the letters was held up while she prepared her text of *As You Like It* for the Arden Shakespeare series, published in 1975. This won her many new admirers and friends.

Agnes Latham must have appeared to many as reserved and to others as somewhat formidable. But to those who came to know her well she was a delightful company, kind, generous, witty and a keen observer of the world from which she contrived to remain wonderfully detached. Her review of yet another biography of Sir Walter Raleigh began, "It's that man again".

She was a writer of great elegance with a prose style that became sparer yet even more pregnant as the years went by. Although a scholarly scholar she was also a natural literary journalist who communicated her meaning in short, pithy sentences. Characteristic of her powers of wry observation was a short essay on Ben Jonson which she contributed to *The Times* in 1963, and which concluded: "In Jonson a love of literature amounted to a passion. If he liked a poem he had it by heart and repeated it aloud at the least provocation. He tended to associate poetry with getting slightly drunk. It offered an experience at once real, immediate and exhilarating, a shared pleasure and not one to be pursued in drawing rooms."

Agnes Latham continued to the very end to attend and to chair WEA classes in Pickering, and in spite of increasing frailty she was an indefatigable partner in excursions into the North Yorkshire countryside. She never married.

SIR NEIL LAWSON

Sir Neil Lawson, Judge of the High Court of Justice, 1971-83, died in London on January 26 aged 87. He was born on April 8, 1908.



NEIL LAWSON believed in, and served, the rule of law. He was a vigorous and committed socialist in his personal life; in his professional life, as a junior and as a silk, he was a vital and ubiquitous advocate who was in demand from every sector of national and political life. His practice was enormous and his appetite for work commensurate with it.

Always in chambers before 7am, with the window wide open in mid-winter and his door ajar, he would boast to the next arrival of the low cost of his "workman's ticker" (a ticket then available at cheap rate only to those who travelled to work very early) — all the time dispatching consultations at 20-minute intervals until the moment came, just before 10.30am, for him to leave for court in a blizzard of energy.

His range of clients was wide, ranging from Marlene Dietrich to the Electricians' Union (in the "ballot rigging" case) and from murderers of policemen to commercial institutions. In the eastern world he made and retained a giant's reputation as adviser to the Sultan of Brunei, as a result of which the title of "Dato" was bestowed upon him on three separate occasions. With the Sultan's team in 1959 he undertook long and tough negotiations with the British Government, which resulted in the transferring to the Sultan of full control over the internal affairs of Brunei. Previously, he had been constitutional adviser to eight rulers of the Malay States before their country acquired its independence as Malaysia (from which Brunei wisely kept out) in 1957. Thereafter he helped to draft several contemporary constitutions, including those of Ghana, Uganda and Nigeria.

He was a prominent left-winger of the 1930s. He conducted an inquiry into the Reichstag fire of 1933, which was credited with forcing the Nazis to release Georgi Dimitroff and his Bulgarian colleagues before its conclusion. (It was a feat which, Lawson liked to recall, was acknowledged by his being granted the right to travel free on the tramcars of Sofia for life.) He was a founder member of the National Council for Civil Liberties and, during the war, joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Once the war was over, he returned to practice at the Bar, taking silk in 1955. After ten years as a leader he was an obvious choice as Sir Leslie Scarman's deputy on the founding of the Law Commission, which he joined in 1965 and worked at tirelessly until his appointment to the High

Court Bench in 1971. He was made an honorary fellow of the London School of Economics in 1974, partly in recognition of this work. After Scarman left the Law Commission, Lawson became its chairman and genuinely enjoyed the process of law reform, although by no means always the committee system through which he had to operate. It was a time when governments acted on Law Commission proposals with more alacrity than later tended to be the case. Many effective reforms were made and several parliamentary Bills successfully enacted.

The High Court Bench proved to be scarcely less eventful. Lawson's independence of spirit led him to criticise injustice wherever he saw it. This caused him on occasions to remark unfavourably on the strict rules of precedent under which pious judges have to operate when dealing with decisions of the higher courts. But the same lack of respect for rank ensured a fair, if rapid, hearing for all comers to his court. There were no preconceptions there, except possibly for a sneaking affection for the underdog.

When he retired his output of work, if anything, increased, just as, when at the Bar (before legal aid) he was always willing in a proper case to act for nothing, and was in private life a generous man, so after his time on the Bench he declined private services for several years sitting as a Judge in Chambers in "Room 98" at the Royal Courts of Justice.

This was no Orwellian room of horrors (save perhaps for an underprepared advocate) but a place where he was able to indulge his intellectual speed and voracity for work. It was a period he later remembered as his happiest time as a Judge.

He is survived by his wife Gwen, a son and a daughter.

EDWARD GOODMAN

Edward Goodman, author, died on February 3 aged 81. He was born on January 13, 1915.

EDWARD GOODMAN liked to describe himself as an author, but his contribution to liberal thought — both with a capital "L" and a small one — was much greater than that of the three books he wrote. As the founder of the Acton Society and a trustee of the Joseph Rowntree Social Service Trust he helped to put into practice his passionately held beliefs in the principles of individual freedom, toleration and decentralisation.

Edward Frederick Weston Goodman was the son of a successful estate agent who sent him to Mill Hill, then a strongly Nonconformist public school. It was here that he first developed his interest in politics and the League of Nations. However, Goodman was dissuaded from pursuing his education further by his father who, suffering from ill-health, wanted help with the family business.

After a brief rebellion against parental wishes, when on the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Goodman travelled to Spain — his father only discovered this when he

saw his son's byline in a newspaper — he reluctantly went into estate agency and qualified as a surveyor. This qualification, which in later life used rather to embarrass him, nonetheless enabled him not only to earn a comfortable living but was also responsible for him meeting Seeborn Rowntree, the man who was to transform his life.

Rowntree, the son of the York chocolate manufacturer and dedicated philanthropist, spotted Goodman as a likely Liberal who could help his trust's property portfolio. In 1946 Goodman became a Rowntree trustee, and two years later he founded the Acton Society. This was intended to be a liberal version of the Fabians — a social research foundation which would propagate the ideas of Lord Acton, the 19th-century Cambridge historian, and attempt to reconcile Liberal, Marxist and Christian thinking — particularly in Government and industry.

The society's first work was to study the newly-formed National Health Service and it produced a series of pamphlets on the composition of the boards and hospitals. It financed pioneering work on issues like local government

and housing and in 1953 Goodman published his first book *Forms of Public Control and Ownership*.

In the 1950s Goodman, regretting his lack of university education, enrolled at the London School of Economics where he came under the influence of Karl Popper and Lionel Robbins. He never took a degree, something which always saddened him, but was instead urged by Robbins to concentrate on his writing. In 1969 he published *The Impact of Size*, a book which developed many of the ideas popularised in E. F. Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful*, though where Schumacher had tended to focus on appropriate technologies, Goodman concentrated rather more on the types of organisational structure which would secure more meaningful work for individuals and a thriving industrial and commercial culture.

In the mid-1960s Goodman moved his home to Italy, a country whose regional government, civic pride, industrial structure and banking system he greatly admired. He was particularly interested in the role of the small firm in the Italian "economic miracle". But he remained an active

Rowntree trustee and, when the trust set up 9 Poland Street as a powerhouse for pressure group politics, he kept an office there. At this stage he also played a key role in setting up a study of toleration at York University.

Meanwhile, from his base in Italy, Goodman continued to write — often scribbling his ideas down on the back of envelopes in the middle of the night for a succession of research assistants to transcribe in the morning. In 1975 he published *A Study of Liberty and Revolution*, a book which attempted to resolve the conflict of modern industrial society with human values, and put forward a theory of liberty, first as a social philosophy, then as a force for social change.

Despite a somewhat unorthodox personal life, Goodman remained a committed Anglican, struggling in Florence to go to church every Sunday, before his eventual return to Britain when symptoms of Parkinson's disease first began to show. Goodman also remained a committed Liberal and was amused just before his death by the suggestion that he had pioneered the concepts of stake-holding and communitarianism which



Tony Blair has recently made his first visit to Italy, where Edward Goodman was married and divorced twice.

He is survived by a son and two daughters, and by his partner Gill Carter, with whom he lived for 18 years.

SAM GREEN

Sam Green, CBE, campaigner for the disabled, industrialist and inventor, died on January 21 aged 88. He was born on February 6, 1907.

SAM GREEN reorganised Remploy, the leading employers of the disabled, placed it on an industrial footing and expanded about a dozen workshops to 90 factories. He used his industrial experience and connections to persuade industry to provide work for disabled people. Green performed similar services as chairman of the Industrial Advisers to the Blind and for the Royal British Legion.

He was an inventor who later became chairman of the Institute of Patentees and Inventors (IPI) and vice-pres-

ident of the International Inventors Federation. A man of many interests, a keen walker and cyclist, Green was also involved in founding the British Youth Hostel Movement.

Sam Green was born in the cotton town of Oldham, Lancashire, and started work at the age of 13 at Platt Bros, textile manufacturers. Having qualified both as an electrical and mechanical engineer, he became a draughtsman. In 1936 he invented the box motion of the four-colour automatic loom for the Northrop Loom Company.

As chief engineer of Betts & Co, London, in 1939 he put their factories on a war footing. In 1945 he joined the International Commercial Finance Corporation as an industrial adviser.

In 1952 Sir Walter Monckton, as Minister of Labour, appointed him managing director of Remploy. He enlarged the company, introduced machinery to make work easier for the disabled and established an incentive scheme.

In 1961 he was appointed CBE for his services to the disabled. Four years later he became chairman of the Industrial Advisers to the Blind, and the Royal British Legion approached him to organise its Poppy Factory and Legion Industries in a similar manner to the work he had done at Remploy.

Green was a director and chairman of private and public companies. He never wished to retire and continued working in his electrical business until last October. He



maintained his interest in the disabled and inventions. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS ANIMALS IN NEED Please help us to find homes for the animals in need. We have a variety of cats and dogs for sale. Please contact us for more details.	FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES ETC On Court Page £11.50 per line plus VAT. Please send Court Page announcements by post/fax to: Mrs J. Newman, Court & Social Advertising, Level 5, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BD. Tel: 0171 782 7347. Fax: 0171 481 9313.	ANNOUNCEMENTS Please include in all correspondence a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent, a daytime and home telephone number and address. Advertisements for the Court Page must be received two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.	RETIRED? Don't let your experience go to waste If you are retired and have business or professional experience let REACH find you a satisfying, part-time, expenses-only job with a charity close to home. REACH provides a job-finding service for men and women throughout the UK free of charge to both charity and volunteer. Write or phone for details. Today.
Kidney Research Saves Lives Please help with a donation now and a legacy later NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH 3 Avenue Court, Salisbury Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 1AB.	REACH Bear Wharf (TT) 27 Bankside London SE1 9ET Tel: 0171-928 0452 Voluntary work for retired business & professional people. Registered Charity No 178007.	Mavis is still helping her 'oppo' Fifty years have passed since Mavis and her 'oppo' Beryl, serviced Spitfires at Biggin Hill. Today Beryl's sight has failed but Mavis still helps her out through donations to the Fund. You can ensure we are always there to help the whole RAF family: aircrew, ground staff, serving as well as ex-RAF, their spouses and dependant children by making a donation now and remembering us in your Will.	THE FOOD SHORTAGE TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES Sir, — It is as the Food Minister tells us, the recent news of the wheat import crisis in Britain have to forgo 250,000 tons of our anticipated wheat imports during the current half-year, with a prospect of further drastic curtailments thereafter, is it true wisdom to trust to spring-sown wheat (accurately described by your Agricultural Correspondent as a "chancey" crop in our climate) to fill the gap? In spite of the extra labour involved in planting and lifting, should we not rather concentrate this spring on planting a large additional acreage of potatoes? They are universally acknowledged as the chief dietary equivalent of wheat. Unlike wheat and barley, they are plantable everywhere, yield a heavier per acre output of energy-producing food, and are consumable alike by man and beast. Yours faithfully, Lydney, Feb. 6. Sir, — Today's announcement by the Minister of Food shows clearly that the need to grow the largest possible acreage of wheat in this country is as great as ever. Three steps are necessary, and there is no time to be lost if spring wheat is to make up for at least part of the deficiency. (1) The immediate reinstatement of the International Inventors Federation. A man of many interests, a keen walker and cyclist, Green was also involved in founding the British Youth Hostel Movement.
ON THIS DAY February 8, 1946 The war may have been over but the world food shortage clouded the peace. Butter, margarine and cooking fats were reduced from eight to seven ounces, and in May, for the first time, bread was rationed.	CALL FOR SACRIFICES FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT MELBOURNE, Feb. 7. Almost every Australian newspaper makes the British food crisis the subject of its chief editorial to-day, urging Australians to limit their demands on their abundance in order to divert as much as possible to those whose needs are infinitely greater. This, it is suggested, can be done by a number of measures — by tightening the administration of rationing, especially of meat, of which at least as much should be sent to the United Kingdom as was being supplied to the American forces; by supplementing shipments of butter with useful supplies of cooking fats, which are daily wasted in Australia; by using substitute stock feeds and economizing in bread consumption to provide more wheat for export; and by reducing the existing ration of meat, sugar and butter. Typical of the comments from public men is that of the Premier of Victoria, Mr. John Cain, who declared that the news that the hard-pressed people of the United Kingdom were to have their ration further curtailed was too fearful to contemplate, and he promised the Victorian Government would do everything it could to help them. Substantial quantities of food, including meat, butter, cheese, and eggs were stored in Australia at the end of 1945 for shipment to the United Kingdom, and it is believed that there is no reason why this food should not be exported immediately provided that shipping is available.	THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, 105 St. John's Road, London, E14 6JH. Tel: 071-580 8343.	REACH Bear Wharf (TT) 27 Bankside London SE1 9ET Tel: 0171-928 0452 Voluntary work for retired business & professional people. Registered Charity No 178007.

هكمان النحل

NEWS

Blair puts hereditary peers on notice

Tony Blair yesterday put Britain's hereditary peers on notice to quit with his strongest pledge that a Labour Government would swiftly end a system under which people wielded power on the basis of birth but not merit or election.

He put forward a two-stage plan for reform of the House of Lords under which the right of some 750 hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Upper House would be scrapped in an early piece of constitutional legislation. Pages 1, 11, 19

Top Foreign Office woman quits

Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, 56, the most senior woman in the Foreign Office, is to join the National Westminster Bank after rejecting two top posts — as ambassador to Bonn and special adviser to the Prime Minister. Her salary of £200,000 could be doubled by performance-related payments. Page 1

Lockerbie gesture

The people of Lockerbie, whose community was devastated by Britain's worst air disaster, have taken in hundreds of stranded motorists in a remarkable show of community spirit. Pages 1, 5

Scott storm gathers

Betty Bothroyd, the Speaker of the Commons, stepped into the growing row over the Scott report by supporting Labour demands for an early sight of the 1,800-page document. Page 1

Crash jet uninsured

A Boeing 757 which crashed off the Dominican Republic killing all 189 on board was not properly insured and had not received formal authorisation to make the fatal flight. Pages 1, 14

The Beast jailed

A rapist known as the Beast of Belgrave, who attacked a woman days after being discharged from a psychiatric unit, got five life sentences. Page 3

Carling complaint

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has defended his decision to reject Julia Carling's complaint about privacy invasion. Page 5

Wrong Pole

American scientists have found that the much-photographed post used to mark the location of the South Pole has been stuck in the wrong place. Page 6

Army recruits invited to stand easy

Lieutenant-General Hew Pike, who fought in one of the Falklands' toughest battles, told MPs that measures had been introduced to ensure recruits were not put off military life by an over-exuberant sergeant-major. He said: "We don't put them into boots straight away. We have less of a sink-or-swim approach than in the past." Page 3

Blurred culture

Schools must introduce pupils to high culture and help them to escape the creed that sees no difference between Schubert and Blur, the Government's chief curriculum adviser said. Page 7

Heir to stay

Jay Khadka, 19, a former Nepalese mountain boy who is heir to an 18th-century English castle and a £1.5 million fortune, may have won his appeal against being deported. Page 10

Taking the veil

After a lifetime trying to escape her father's bloody legacy, Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's only daughter, may have found sanctuary for her soul in a Catholic convent. Page 12

Film fraud

Germany's most adventurous maker of documentaries has been exposed — 22 of his scoops were staged with the help of disguised neighbours and friends. Page 13

Jiang jitters

President Jiang Zemin of China is reported to be uneasy about jingoist leaders in the People's Liberation Army who are urging tough action against Taiwan. Page 14

Man of the Right

Pat Buchanan proclaimed himself the Republican Right's undisputed standard bearer after dealing Phil Gramm a crippling blow in Louisiana. Page 15



Friends of the Tate queuing in London yesterday for the Cézanne exhibition, which opens to the public today. Pages 1, 13, 18, 19, 33

BUSINESS

Railway setback: Negotiations over the £3 billion Channel Tunnel Rail Link contract have been set back by alleged financial irregularities at Union Railways, the company that designed it. Page 23

Lloyds Chemist: A bid battle is under way for control of Lloyds Chemist with a £584 million bid from Gehe, the German pharmaceutical wholesaler, for the British chain. UniChem, which had made an agreed bid of £530 million, may top the offer. Page 23

Markets: The FTSE-100 index chose to ignore another record-breaking run on Wall Street and ended up 21.4 points down at 3,726.1. Sterling was down 0.5c against the dollar at \$1.5363 and up 0.3pt at 2.2715. Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: Robin Smith, the most prolific run-scorer in England's World Cup party, may be out of the competition after damaging his groin during a practice match in Lahore. Page 44

Football: Uefa and Europe's top clubs agreed to allow the eight leading nations an automatic second entry into an expanded European Cup. Page 44

Rugby union: Scotland, unbeaten after two matches, announced an unchanged side to play Wales in the five nations' championship in Cardiff. Page 39

Rugby league: Ellery Hanley, the former Great Britain captain and coach, is to join Sydney Tigers. His last competitive appearance was ten months ago. Page 39

Princess perfect: Best of the week's films is *A Little Princess*, from Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic. Also out are a gritty Spike Lee film, *Clockers*, and *Desperado*, starring Antonio Banderas. Page 31

Lee's night out: The comic Lee Evans has begun a run at the Lyric Theatre. "He seldom ventures far from Essex man's world," says Benedict Nightingale. Page 32

Cézanne du jour: To celebrate the Tate's exhibition, Richard Cork presents a daily choice of Cézanne's pictures. Page 33

Jim Jarmusch: After cancelling one performance when the tenor died and another when a blizzard struck, the New York Met staged Janáček's *Makropulos Case* with Jessye Norman in stunning form. Page 33

No tomb: Cemeteries all over London are out of room, Julia Llewellyn Smith reports. Page 17

Playing the part: All actors are typecast to some extent. Their bodies, faces, voices and, often, personalities dictate or limit who they can play. Page 17

Time to heat: Emma Wilkins talks to Graeme Gibson, the British diplomat paralysed after an armed car-jacking in Nairobi, now coming to terms with his injuries at Stoke Mandeville. Page 16

Up and away: The travel industry is facing one of its toughest challenges: the premature enthusiasm of seasoned travellers and avid partygoers to celebrate the millennium in style. Page 37

IN THE TIMES

SWINGING TIMES
Free 24-page guide to the 1996 Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge

STOREY LINES
Valerie Grove meets David Storey; Benedict Nightingale reviews his *Changing Room*

Preview: Derek Hatton reflects on life in and out of politics. *My Brilliant Career* (BBC2, 8pm). Review: Peter Barnard on the men of Hollywood and Whitehall. Page 23

Preview: Derek Hatton reflects on life in and out of politics. *My Brilliant Career* (BBC2, 8pm). Review: Peter Barnard on the men of Hollywood and Whitehall. Page 23

Blair's constitutional

The clearest water in British politics now lies between the Labour and Conservative positions on the constitution. The question is whether Labour's proposals fit Britain's evolutionary tradition or represent a damaging upheaval. Page 19

Lilley's logic

If care is to be taken of the millions more who will be living on pensions in a generation's time then money needs to be put away, money the Government does not have. The best way to safeguard care is for individuals to make their own provision. Page 19

No other fruit

Paintings and sketches by Paul Cézanne — bright leaves in an artistic whirlwind — have come to the Tate Gallery in London. Visitors should rejoice in the opportunity to revel in this art of many textures. Page 19

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The question of Blair's closure involves the choice between taking a pie and an opportunity, between something much worse and something much better than we have at present. The orthodox view is that it is better to let the whole system break down. Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

Both parties are claiming eagerly that the constitution's survival depends on their victory. The Tories need to be less dogmatic and Labour has to address the laws in its approach. Page 11

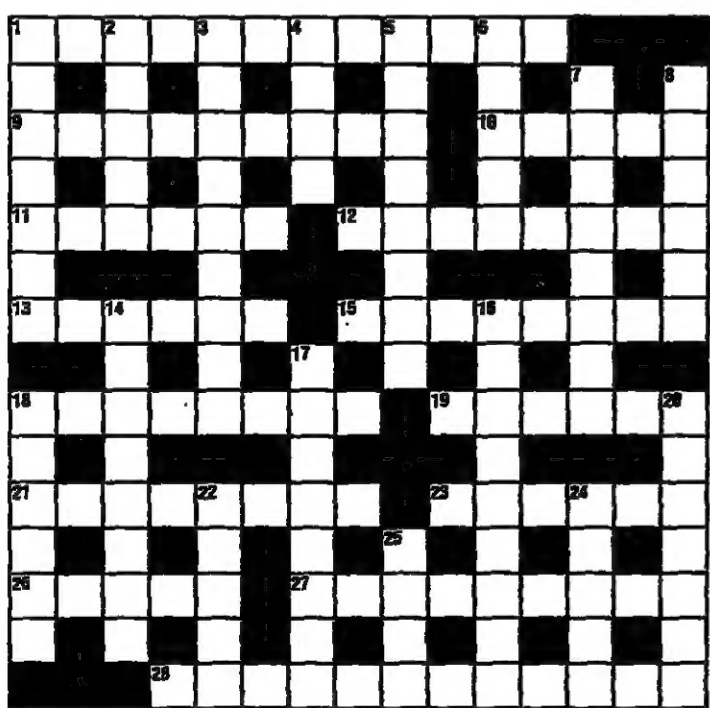
ALAN COREN

You don't know how lucky I am. I have been up Cézanne's ladder. It has an iffy rung. But I do not intend to tell you which one. Page 18

Agnes Latham, editor of the poems of Sir Walter Raleigh; Sir Neil Lawson, High Court judge; Edward Goodman, author; Sam Green, campaigner. Page 11

Complementary medicine: rules for juries; cricket: World Cup; Angola. Page 11

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,085



- ACROSS**
- High-rise building resulting in discord, in manner of speaking (5,2,5).
 - Put in new order to erect kitchen fireplace (9).
 - Man embracing girl, showing a peculiar expression (5).
 - A section's dab hands (6).
 - Was abusive like, essentially, dunderhead (8).
 - Break the rules in disappointing final (6).
 - Word of warning the players anticipate (8).
 - Stop a squat in a ground floor place (8).
 - Batter used in snack bar (6).
 - Free beer, alas, is apt to be cancelled (8).
 - Come close to emotional outburst in mass immersion (6).
- DOWN**
- Violent storm split a party (7).
 - I and others find a short way to make cloth (5).
 - Drama over fairy queen being executed in novel setting (9).
 - Punitively charged, we hear, for bargain (4).
 - Dislike wrought iron vase (8).
 - Here's an example of how to do this (5).
 - Court official upholds mine workers (8).
 - In the centre of Maidstone one's got lost somehow (6).
 - Feathered bird show? (3,5).
 - Change in religious instruction due to scholarship (9).
 - Size of paper for comic that is a penny (8).
 - Tea-maker gives brother a jug (6).
 - Persecute soldiers in breach of duty (7).
 - Psychiatrist whose name Irene the adventuress dropped (5).
 - Motorway occupied by early morning in US city (5).
 - The colours fade (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,084

AMBASSADOR UTAH
PATIENT PROMISE
CHECKMATE BIRD
WISER TESTIFIED
SASPARILLA GIPSY
C O I G T R
OCCUR CAUGHTOUT
N C N C L O V I T
SUPREMO LAMALISM
I E R E A S E
NORM CONDESCEND

THE TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
East Angles	702
East Midlands	703
East of England	704
East of Scotland	705
East of Wales	706
East of Yorkshire	707
East of Northern Ireland	708
East of the Channel Islands	709
East of the Azores	710
East of the Canary Islands	711
East of the Cape Verde Islands	712
East of the Madeira Islands	713
East of the Azores	714
East of the Canary Islands	715
East of the Cape Verde Islands	716
East of the Madeira Islands	717
East of the Azores	718
East of the Canary Islands	719
East of the Cape Verde Islands	720
East of the Madeira Islands	721
East of the Azores	722
East of the Canary Islands	723
East of the Cape Verde Islands	724
East of the Madeira Islands	725
East of the Azores	726
East of the Canary Islands	727
East of the Cape Verde Islands	728
East of the Madeira Islands	729
East of the Azores	730

Weathercast is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
East Angles	732
East Midlands	733
East of England	734
East of Scotland	735
East of Wales	736
East of Yorkshire	737
East of Northern Ireland	738
East of the Channel Islands	739
East of the Azores	740
East of the Canary Islands	741
East of the Cape Verde Islands	742
East of the Madeira Islands	743
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East of the Cape Verde Islands	758
East of the Madeira Islands	759
East of the Azores	760

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 10C (50F); lowest day temp: Burton, Derbyshire, 2C (36F); highest night temp: Burton, Derbyshire, 1C (34F); lowest night temp: Burton, Derbyshire, -1C (31F).

Forecast the Weather and Win £1000 Worth of Clothing.

See page 7 for details.

Burberrys

General: England and Wales will be generally cloudy, with snow in northern England, North Wales, NE Scotland; cloudy outbreaks of mainly light snow. Max 10C (50F). Wind easterly light becoming moderate SE.

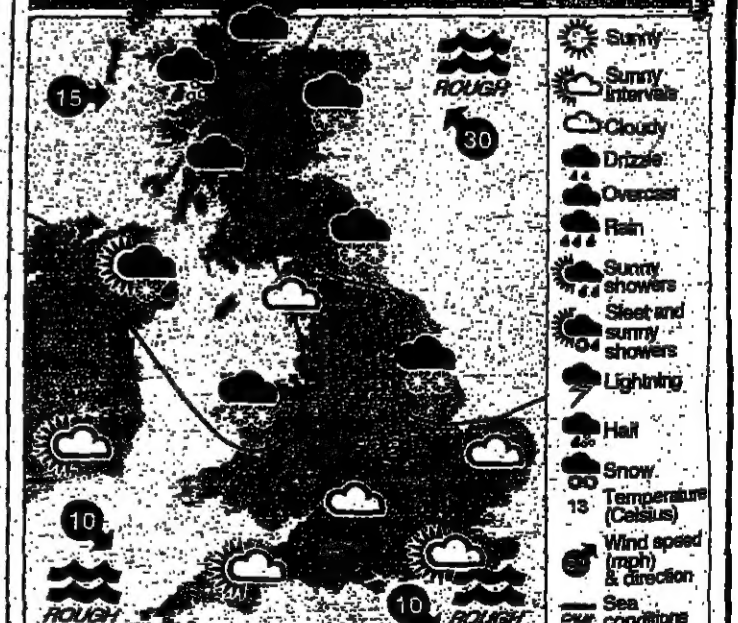
Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: cloudy, some bright spells snow and rain during evening. Max 10C (50F). Wind moderate to fresh north-west, becoming near gale southerly.

N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: cloudy, light wintry showers, snow late evening. Max 10C (50F). Wind moderate north-west, becoming strong south-east.

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyle, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: outbreaks of snow throughout. Max 10C (50F). Wind moderate westerly becoming strong south-east later.

E Anglia, Midlands, NW England, Central N: fog slowly clearing, remaining cloudy. Cold. Max 10C (50F). Wind easterly light becoming moderate south-east later.

Changes to chart below from noon: high T and low K will remain slow moving; low N will continue to deepen and become slow moving near northern Scotland



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